



Circling Plane Bids Farewell to Balloon, Off on Transoceanic Flight



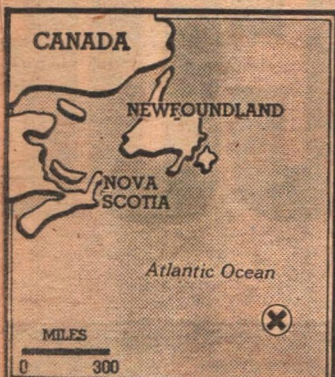
DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1970

3 Balloonists Fall in the Sea, 600 Mi. Out

By MICHAEL PATTERSON and PAUL MESKIL

The giant balloon *Free Life*, carrying three adventurers on an attempted transatlantic crossing, went down in the ocean last night about 600 miles southeast of Newfoundland.

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Duane was speeding to the scene to rescue the balloonists, New Yorker Rod Anderson, 32; his wife, actress Pamela Brown, 28, and the skipper, an Englishman, Malcolm Brighton, 32.



NEWS Map by Staff Artist
Free Life splashed down (X).

Peter Dean, manager of the project, said the last radio message from the balloon, at 6 p.m., reported that they were at an altitude of 600 feet and descending. Dean estimated they hit the water within 30 minutes after radioing.

He said the balloonists, after traveling about 800 miles in their first day aloft, ran into a rainstorm and a cold front late yesterday afternoon. The cold air caused the balloon's helium supply to



NEWS photo by Frank Mooney
Rod Anderson (left) with wife, Pamela, and Malcolm Brighton (right) in gondola before takeoff.

contract, making the balloon descend.

Around noon yesterday, the travelers contacted a Pan American airliner and reported their progress. They said they were comfortable and were at an altitude of 6,140 feet. Later, a TAP Portuguese Airways jet picked up a radio message saying they were 4,000 feet above the Atlantic.

They said a system, for heating air inside the outer shell surrounding the helium container, had failed. It was necessary to heat the air in order to warm the helium and keep the balloon aloft.

Before the balloon took off at

1:40 p.m. Sunday from a farm meadow in East Hampton, L.I., a tear developed in the balloon's outer shell. Attempts to patch it failed, so the trio decided to take off anyway, Dean said here last night.

Because heated air was leaking, he said, the propane gas heating equipment was useless and had to be jettisoned as the vessel sank towards the ocean.

"Wasn't it a gamble to take off with a defective balloon?" a newsman asked.

"The whole thing was a gamble," Dean replied.

The three had hoped to make the world's first manned balloon crossing of the Atlantic in four to

10 days. Their last radio message, less than 29 hours after takeoff, said the Coast Guard was aware of their position and a cutter was on the way.

The gondola of *Free Life* was made of unsinkable styrofoam. The trio also had a life raft, flares, heavy flight suits and other emergency equipment.

A Royal Canadian Air Force rescue plane joined the search last night. The Coast Guard reported the balloon was believed to have gone down about 100 miles west of Coast Guard Weather Station Delta. The weather at that location was rainy with poor visibility.

Balloon Down and Search Is On

By Mike Quinn and Jim Scovel

New York—A 10-story-high balloon and its crew of three, which left Long Island Sunday on a flight to Paris, went down in the rainy, wind-swept Atlantic last night and were being sought by the Coast Guard today.

The balloon, the *Free Life*, lifted off from East Hampton at 1:40 Sunday afternoon to the cheers of 600 spectators. On board were Rod Anderson, 32; his 28-year-old wife, actress Pamela Brown, and Malcolm Brighton, 32, an English balloonist. They had hoped to make the transatlantic crossing, which would have set a distance record in balloon travel, in six to 16 days.

At 6 PM yesterday, slightly more than 16 hours into the flight, the crew radioed: "We are at 600 feet (altitude) and going down." The balloon was then about 400 miles southeast of Newfoundland. The crew, in making the radio transmission, promised to send a second message as soon as the craft touched water.

But no further transmission was picked up by the Coast Guard or by other receiving stations along the Atlantic Seaboard. The Coast Guard immediately sent three cutters, the *Dallas*, the *Ingham* and the *Duane*, to the area.

A Coast Guard spokesman reported that the three ships had not found the balloon or its occupants by early today. "Pretty heavy seas" of 15 feet, winds of more than 35 MPH and rain squalls were reported by the spokesman.

Rescue planes moved out across the North Atlantic at dawn to join the

search. Six aircraft, from the Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force and the Canadian air force were participating.

The crew had a raft equipped with food, water, medical supplies, parachute flares and a radio locator beacon. The Coast Guard reported no signals from the homing beacon. A large bright light was seen by crewmen in one of the cutters about an hour after the distress call. But a spokesman said later that the light was "not in the general area of the search" and apparently did not come from the craft.

In New York, Peter Dean, manager of the flight, said, that he was worried but added, "I think they're well equipped for something like this. They had a lot of equipment on board for just such an emergency."

Until the distress call, the voyage had been smooth and uneventful. Drifting at altitudes ranging from 4,000 to more than 6,000 feet, the orange balloon and its yellow gondola had swung past Sable Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia. At 12:30 PM, the crew reported that they had just had a roast beef luncheon and were "in good spirits and good health."

The exact cause of the accident was not known. But Dean theorized that the craft hit a storm front with cold weather. That would have contracted the helium in the balloon, which would have tended to collapse it and force the craft down. The craft had been operating on a double system of elevation-helium and hot air heated by tanks of propane gas. The latter had been jettisoned earlier yesterday, apparently according to plan.



AP Wirephoto
THE CREW. Pamela Brown, Rod Anderson, center, and Malcolm Brighton await start of their balloon flight over the Atlantic Sunday in East Hampton. The craft went down last night 400 miles southeast of Newfoundland.

Third Search For Free Life

The third effort to find the missing Free Life balloon, which took off from Springs for Europe Sept. 20 and apparently went down at sea, was under way yesterday with uncertain results. There were conflicting reports, and unconfirmed rumors.

Only one thing was certain: Rod Anderson, 32; his wife Pamela Farris Brown, 28; and Malcolm Brighton, 32, had not yet been found.

It was known, however, that Miss Brown's father, John Young Brown, a wealthy Kentucky lawyer and former Congressman, had hired a DC-6 aircraft to continue the search for the missing balloonists when the Coast Guard search, instituted after two Senators had interceded, was abandoned.

This airplane, it was reported, had, on Monday, sighted what appeared to be clothing and what might have been a life raft or life jacket in an area much closer to

Newfoundland than the last reported position of the balloon and the area of the second search.

Newfoundland

The sighting was variously reported as 85, 100, and 20 miles southwest of Cape Saint Mary, Newfoundland. On Tuesday, the Canadian Coast Guard, after being told of the sighting, began to search again, without immediate results.

Also on Tuesday, it was reported here that photographs had been taken from the DC-6, and that on enlargement, they showed what could have been the balloon's gondola. There was even speculation the photos showed people aboard, but this could not be confirmed.

Local sources in touch with the searchers said that James Contos, 53, the experienced balloonist from Akron, Ohio, who had originally planned to accompany Mr. Anderson in the crossing, had flown to Canada to lend assistance. There

were also reports that a California clairvoyant, who had earlier been consulted, was aiding in the hunt.

Speculation

The original search was concentrated 450 miles southeast of Newfoundland, and the second was conducted by aircraft flying from the Azores and inspecting an area perhaps 600 miles southeast of Newfoundland. There had been speculation that the balloon might have been lightened by its occupants, after their distress call Sept. 21, and continued on some distance toward Europe.

The area now under search is roughly 600 miles back along the presumed track of the Free Life. Canadian vessels conducting the search were reported Tuesday to have been hampered by heavy fog and high seas, and Mr. Brown's chartered plane was grounded by the weather. The search was to have resumed yesterday morning.



Tribute to Balloonists

Springs—A simple wooden marker pointing east now sits in a meadow where 600 persons gathered last Sept. 20 to watch the launching of the ill-fated flight of the balloon Free Life and its three-member crew.

But friends, who helped the three to prepare for the flight, are working to erect a permanent memorial where the launching occurred. The 10-story balloon and its crew — Rod Anderson, 32; his 28-year-old wife, actress Pamela Brown, and Malcolm Brighton, 32, an English balloonist—were lost during an Atlantic storm 30 hours after their flight began.

Heading the fund-raising drive are Clarence Barnes of Springs and Kent McDonald of East Hampton, two members of the ground crew that worked three months preparing for the flight. According to Barnes, the group has collected about \$200 and has a commitment from the owner of the pasture to use the land.

"We'd like to put a small concrete block, perhaps with a sculpture of the balloon," McDonald said. "We don't know how much it will cost, but we want to put up something . . . personally we want to feel that they are alive somewhere, but we know they're not . . . that's why we want a monument."



Malcolm Brighton (l.) and Rodney Anderson—search is called off.

Search Abandoned For 3 Balloonists

The search for three balloonists missing in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland was halted yesterday by the Coast Guard after six futile days.

Rear Adm. Benjamin F. Engel, commandant of the 3d Coast Guard District, called off search activities at 5 p.m. and ordered all air and surface units to return to their stations and resume normal duties. The final day of the search failed again to turn up any clue as to the fate of the balloon crew.

The search, which was to have been halted on Friday, was extended another day when an aircraft reported it had spotted a yellow object believed to be an uninflated liferaft about 500 miles southeast of Cape Race, Newfoundland. After an all-day search yesterday, the Coast Guard declared it was unable to find the object.

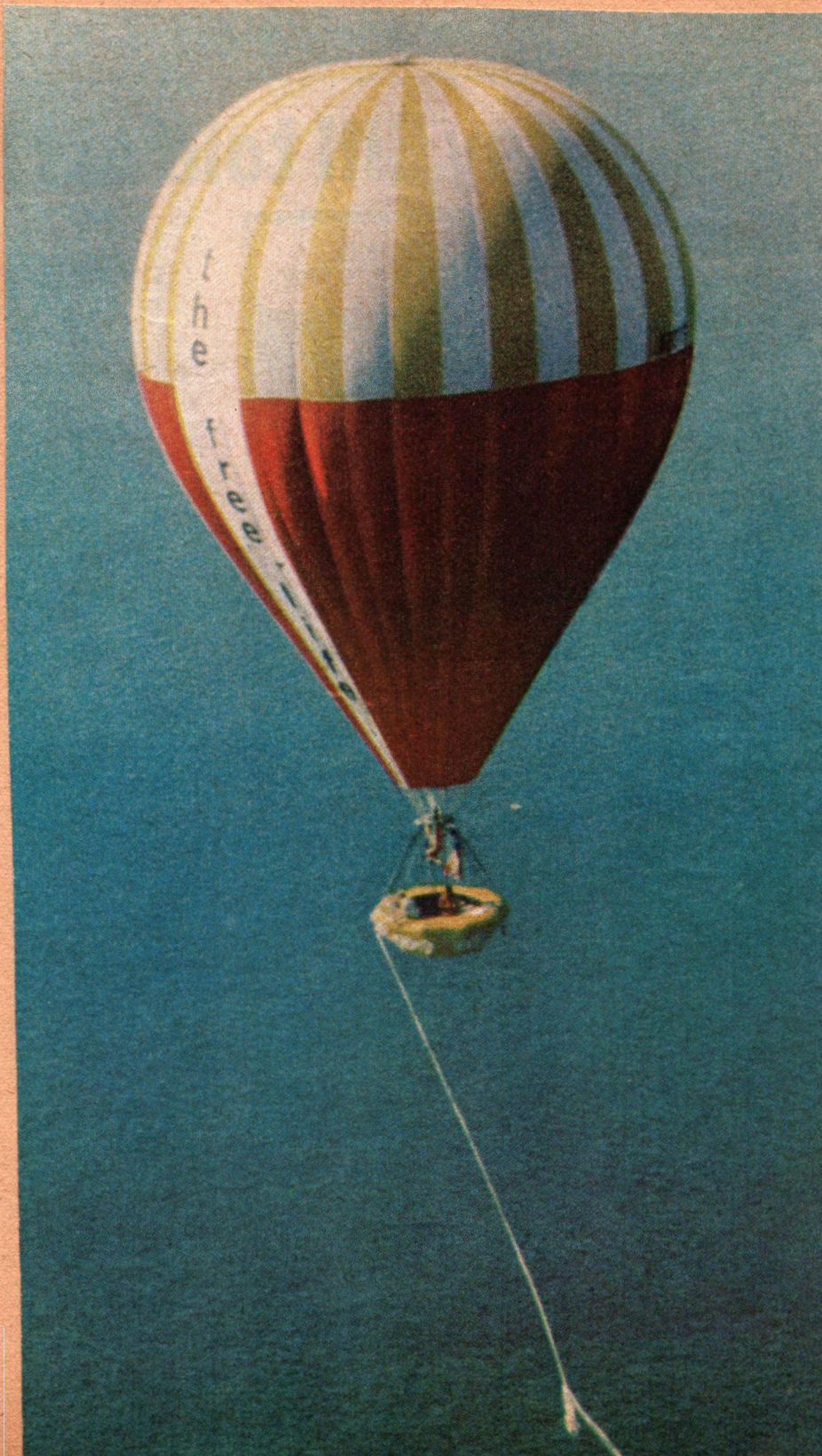
The balloon, named The Free Life, took off from East Hampton, L.I., last Sunday afternoon with three adventurers aboard who hoped to set a new world's distance record by drifting to Paris. Making up the crew were: Rodney Anderson, 32, a commodity broker; his wife, TV actress Pamela Brown, 28, both of 425 E. 79th St., and a British engineer Malcolm Brighton, 32.

Some 29 hours after liftoff



Pamela Brown
Hope ends after six days

the crew radioed that the craft was 600 feet above the ocean and descending in a heavy rainstorm. The crew gave its location and then signed off saying: "Will call you again when we hit the water."



"THE OLD HOOK MILL"
East Hampton, N. Y.
Built 1806 by Nathaniel Dominy

Everyone loves a Windmill; New York City's Coat of Arms bears the four arms of a windmill. Mills were built by first settlers in New England and Long Island. These were English mills called "smock", or "petticoat" because the rotating cap bears resemblance to the full smock of the English farmer or a woman's skirt flouncing around and catching the passing breezes.

White oak and hickory timber for this Mill was felled on Gardiner's Island and towed over to Fireplace on a raft, and then hauled by oxcart to this millsite. John Lyon Gardiner's old account book, kept by him at the close of the 18th and early 19th century, shows that this work began in January 1804 and continued to April 29, 1806. Nathaniel Dominy took three Indians and a negro, "Shem", to the Island with him. The Gardiner ledger mentions a mill shaft for the Hook Mill and cogs for wheels, and charges for 36 meals for carpenters, among the items. This new mill went into operation in July, 1806.

The mill cap is octagonal. A brake permits the head of the mill to turn in the wind. The stocks which support the four long sail-covered arms are fastened to the main shaft which turns the great wheel, bringing the power into the head. The huge cogs turn into the wounds of the wallower and turn it around. The face of both the upper and lower stones is grooved with small vein-like lines running out from the main grooves. The grain, wheat or corn, rolls into these grooves over the face of the stone to be ground.

The degree of fineness of the flour or cornmeal can be determined by increasing or decreasing the space between the stones. These stones are made of Buhrstone set in plaster of paris and cement. They were made in New York and weigh over a ton each. When old mills were torn down, many of the millstones became doorsteps for the sloping-roofed, 17th century houses along East Hampton's Main Street. There is one at "Home Sweet Home" at the front door today.



FROM MONTAUK POINT

I stand on some mighty eagle's beak,
Eastward the sea absorbing, viewing
nothing but sea and sky,
The tossing waves, the foam, the ships in
the distance,
The wild unrest, the snowy, curling caps—
that inbound urge and urge of waves,
Seeking the shores forever.

—Walt Whitman



GEORGE PLIMPTON of Amagansett will discuss his experiences as "An Amateur Among the Pros" at 8:40 p.m. Sunday in the John Drew Theater. This event will be the last of the Theater's summer season and will benefit Guild Hall.

The Way It Was...

Twenty-Five Years Ago 1946

From The Star, Sept. 5, 1946

Lovely Olivia de Havilland, who is probably most widely known for her "Melanie" in "Gone With the Wind," is packing them in at Guild Hall Theater this week as Maggie Wylie in J. M. Barrie's famous comedy, "What Every Woman Knows."

Howard Hughes, airplane pilot, movie producer, and plane builder, spent the weekend with friends in East Hampton.

The John Drew Theater in East Hampton's Guild Hall will offer a completely professional summer program when Broadway producer Francis I. Curtis raises the curtain on a ten weeks' season on Monday. Helen Hayes and her daughter, Mary MacArthur, will be seen in Barrie's "Alice Sit-By-The-Fire."



Mary Tyler Moore is touched by her boy friend's (Michael Tolan) proposal of marriage on her CBS-TV program Saturday night at 9.



Eli Wallach & Anne Jackson



THE DICK CAVETTS



In a rare public appearance, Dick Cavett's actress-wife, Carrie Nye, showed up at the studio to watch a taping of his show.



Lael Evans and Ron Reagan of the Joffrey II Dancers in Darryl Gray's *Threads from a String of Swing*.

Today the Balloon Goes Up



Associated Press photo
Michael Brighton (left) of Farnham, England, and New Yorker Rod Anderson check rigging of gondola of their yellow balloon in East Hampton, L.I. They plan to take off this morning on a transatlantic flight, landing in either England or France. Anderson will be navigator and Brighton will be pilot.

It's a New Sun in the Sky

3 Sail for Paris in Bright Balloon

By FRANK MOONEY

Up! Up! And away! . . . in their beautiful balloon went three adventurers yesterday on a 3,000 mile transatlantic flight from Long Island to Paris.

The trio — New Yorker Rod Anderson, 32, his wife Pamela Brown, 28, and the balloon's skipper, Malcolm Brighton, 32, of Farnham, England — hope to float their way to history as the first team to successfully navigate "free air" across the Atlantic, setting records for distance and time aloft.



Pamela Brown

The journey is expected to take four to 12 days, depending on the winds and the weather.

The balloon is a brilliant orange, stands 10 stories high, is 50 feet wide and filled with 73,000 cubic feet of helium. In flight, it resembles the sun. Just before liftoff at 1.40 p.m. from a farm meadow in East Hampton, L.I., the dauntless balloonists broke open champagne and crisscrossed her Free Life.

It rose slowly, drifting out over Gardiner's Bay toward the Atlantic. The tiny yellow gondola, containing the crew, 4,500 pounds of radio and navigational equipment, plus a liferaft, food and a jug of cognac, swayed gently below.

1,500 Spectators

There were 1,500 cheering spectators on hand for the ascent, which had been delayed nearly eight hours awaiting a proper wind.

Pamela, exercising her woman's prerogative, announced that she had changed her mind and decided just before takeoff to join her husband on the flight because "I love him so much."

Pamela is an attractive, auburn-haired, 5-foot-



NEWS photo by Ed Clarity

Expectations are high before takeoff.

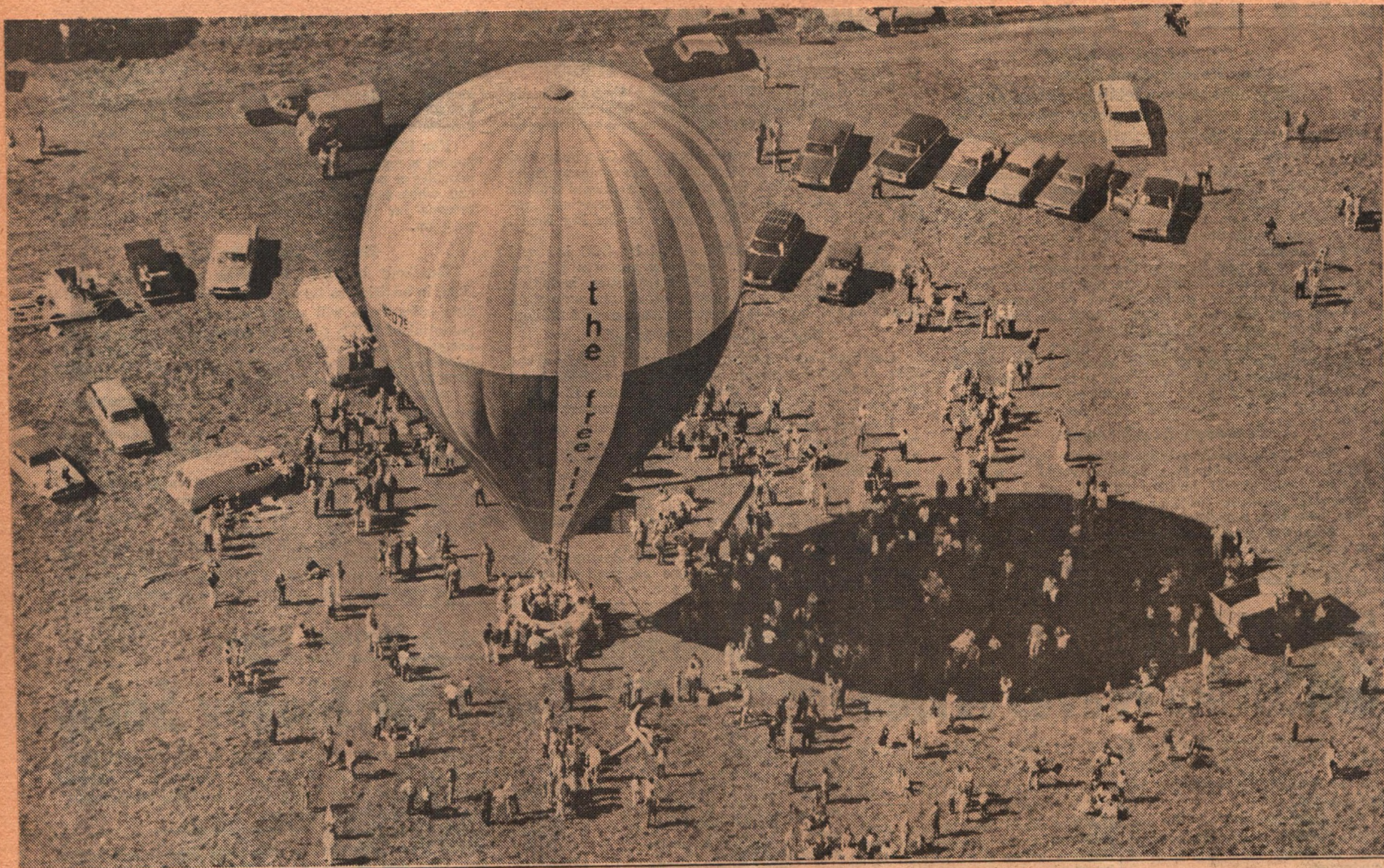
5, 115-pound television actress. She is from a well-to-do family in Kentucky. She and Anderson, a Wall St. commodities broker, were married three years ago.

An Aeronautical Engineer

Brighton is an aeronautical engineer, married and the father of two children. He has had only six hours' experience in balloon flight.

As the breezes grew stronger, and the crew finished last-minute preparations, Anderson discussed the trip with bystanders, saying:

"There are so few adventures left, I just want to try it. Besides, I've never been to Europe."



Airview from NEWS plane by Ed Clarity; Al DeBello, pilot

Inflation's in the Air

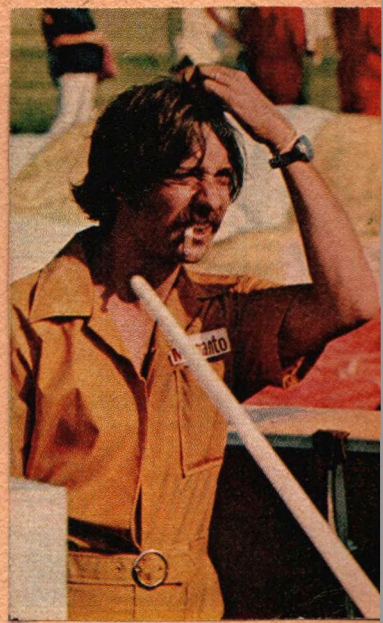
Wind is blowing in the right direction as crowd watches final check of balloon Free Life. Balloon and crew of three, New Yorker Rod Anderson, and his wife, Pamela, and Briton Malcolm Brighton, is headed for Paris from East Hampton L.I. The crowd of 1,500 cheered as the craft rose after four days of delays due to poor wind conditions. *Story p. 4; other pic p. 1*



NEWS photo by Ed Clarity
Balloonist Malcolm Brighton is making sure he has an airtight case.

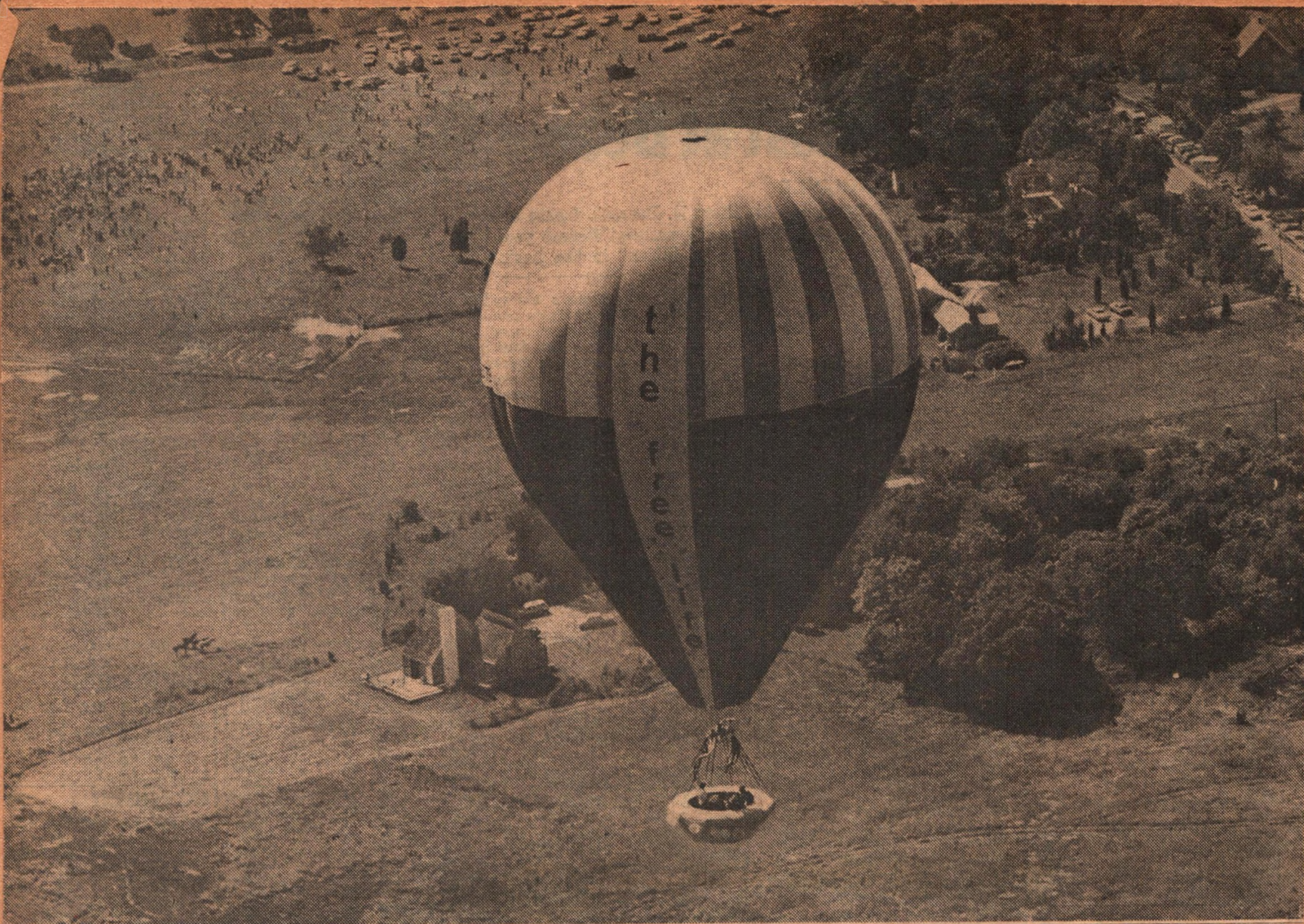


NEWS Airview by Ed Clarity; Al DeBello, pilot
Balloon and crew drift out over ocean after takeoff on Europe or bust venture. Mr. and Mrs. Rod Anderson, of New York, and Briton Malcolm Brighton, finally caught favorable breeze.



Preparing for flight, Pam Anderson inventories food for trip (above) while her husband Rod (right) checks out gondola's cockpit. At far right, Malcolm Brighton tests sextant.





Their Bag? It's a Gas.

Balloon Free Life drifts skyward on takeoff from East Hampton, L.I. New Yorker Rod Anderson and his wife, Pamela, and Malcolm Brighton of England are swinging in gondola below gas bag. They plan to land in Paris depending, of course, on which way the wind blows.

NEWS Airview by Ed Clarity; Al DeBello, pilot

A Gentle Venture Is Off the Ground

By Earl Lane

East Hampton—There was a time, before the advent of air traffic congestion and the spread of dangerous power lines, when ballooning was common and long-distance flights drew international attention.

But one goal, a trans-Atlantic flight, eluded early balloonists. Now, once again, it is being sought by three adventurers who left from a farm pasture here yesterday on what they hope will be a 3,000-mile trip to Paris.

The three reported today that they were nearing Nova Scotia "in good spirits and good health." They radioed at 6:35 AM that they were at 3,000 feet proceeding as planned in a northeasterly direction in good weather, a ground manager of the flight said.

While startled horses galloped nearby and about 600 persons waved and shouted encouragement, the trio, including one woman, lifted off in a spray

As well as being the first trans-Atlantic balloon trip, the flight would set a distance record for balloon travel. An eight-man German team set the record of 1,896 miles in 1914.

Brighton, who will navigate the balloon, said that he saw no reason why the flight should not be successful. He declined to predict where they would land. "We'll take any inch of land we can get," he said. Miss Brown, who put up the \$80,000 needed to finance the flight, decided to go along at the last minute because "I wanted to be with Rod." She has an airplane pilot's license.

Attempts have been made before to cross the Atlantic in a balloon, the most recent a trip by two Canadians in 1968. It ended after 50 miles when the balloon floated slowly down to the waves.

Nor is Miss Brown the first woman to be involved in such flights. In 1826, as one account explains, Eugene Robertson, a Frenchman, left New York City for a short trip accompanied by a woman of "delicate form and handsome countenance."

The 12-foot-wide open gondola was stocked with 4,500 pounds of navigational and radio equipment, a four-man life raft, food, survival gear and medical supplies, including a gallon jug of cognac "for medicinal purposes only."



Newsday Photo by Bob Luckey

IT'S THEIR BAG. The balloon's crew members in the gondola, just before takeoff; are, from left, New Yorker Rod Anderson, his wife, Pamela Brown, and Malcolm Brighton, a Briton.

of champagne from bottles broken on the balloon's gondola.

"There are so few adventures left, I wanted to try it," said Rod Anderson, a 32-year-old New York commodities broker who has been helping to plan this trip for about four years. "Besides," he added, "I've never been to Europe." He also had only about 30 minutes of balloon flight experience.

Anderson is joined in the venture by his wife, Pamela Brown, 28, a television actress, and Malcolm Brighton, 32, an aeronautical engineer and amateur balloonist from Farnham, England.

The three plan to float the 10-story high helium-filled balloon to Europe at altitudes of 8,000 to 10,000 feet and at a speed of about 40 MPH. The trip, if successful, is expected to take from six to 16 days, depending on the weather and wind conditions.

A year ago, on Sunday, Sept. 20, 1970, a festive crowd of picnickers gathered in a pasture at Accabonac Creek to watch the departure of a large helium balloon called the Free Life on what was hoped would be a history-making trans-Atlantic flight.

A more somber group will gather in Springs this Sunday to pay respect to the three members of the Free Life crew who vanished, along with every trace of the balloon itself, in a storm in the North Atlantic some 30 hours later.

A memorial service, led by the Rev. Paul V. Cunkle of the Springs Community Church, will be held at 1:40 p.m. at Ashawagh Hall and a plaque, which will tell briefly the story of the event, will be dedicated. The public has been invited to attend.

The plaque will be placed at the foot of a memorial tree that will be planted on the Ashawagh Green during the first week in October. It will be dedicated to the memory of Pamela Brown, her husband, Rod Anderson, and Malcolm Brighton, the crew.

Actress, Broker, Engineer

Miss Brown, who preferred to use her maiden name, was 28 at the time of her death. A native of Kentucky, she was a television actress. Mr. Anderson, who had become a commodities broker after a brief career as an actor and as an admission officer for New York and Long Island Universities, was, like Mr. Brighton, 32.

Mr. Brighton was an aeronautical engineer from Farnham, England, and he became chief pilot of the

Free Life after another man dropped out of the venture. He was married and had two children.

Among those who have worked on the committee to collect contributions for the plaque and tree and to arrange the memorial service have been Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Barnes of Barnes Country Store, Springs; Kent McDonald of East Hampton; Miss Gene Chipps of New York, a girlhood friend of Miss Brown; and Lorayne and Warren Sussman of Queens.

Free Life Memorial

The Free Life: A Year Later



MEMORIAL SERVICES were held Sunday at Springs on the first anniversary of the departure of the ill-fated balloon Free Life, and a plaque honoring its crew, Rod Anderson, Pamela Brown, and Malcolm Brighton was unveiled. Relatives of the Free Life crew and members of the ground crew, including Gill Foster, speaking above, were among those on hand. Afterward, at a buffet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Barnes, films of the balloon's ascent were shown.

"Free Life" Film Completed

A documentary film has been made of the preparation, take-off and aftermath of the Free Life balloon flight which began in a Springs pasture on a bright Sunday afternoon two years ago and ended tragically 30 hours later with the deaths of the Europe-bound crew in a rain squall probably about 450 miles southeast of Newfoundland.

The 75-minute, 16-millimeter color film was made by three 26-year-old men, incorporated under the name of Trout Fishing in America Films, with a studio at 171 West 29th Street, New York.

Paid for primarily by contributions from relatives and friends, the documentary, called "Free Life," has cost about \$60,000 so far, according to one of the filmmakers, Ronnie Hersh. Mr. Hersh explained in an interview this week that he and his partners, Richard Searls and Russel Schwartz, were in need of an additional \$7,000 to pay outstanding bills and to make prints of the film, which has been entered in the New York Film Festival, the Milan Film Festival and the Washington Cine Festival, all taking place this fall.

Share of Profits

Investors would be guaranteed a pro-rated share of net profits of "Free Life," Mr. Hersh said. "We'll enter it in the New York Film Festival even if we don't come up with the \$7,000," he added. "We're convinced it will be successful."

Originally, the film was going to be edited with the Free Life crew—a commodities broker, Rod Anderson; his wife, Pamela Brown, a

television actress; and a British aeronautical engineer, Malcolm Brighton—with profits to be shared by the six. "What started out as a happy documentary," said Mr. Hersh, "turned out to be the last three days of their lives."

The first half of the film shows the preparation for the flight intercut by post-flight interviews with local residents who helped outfit the gondola with supplies and equipment and who filled the eight-story balloon with helium and launched it. The second half begins with Saturday night's activities—the generators starting up and helium beginning to fill the vast shell, the rush of reality.

Followed In Plane

The young filmmakers rented a plane and followed the Free Life as it left the farm of George Sid Miller Sr. at about 1:40 p.m. Sept. 20, 1970, heading northeast for Europe.

"The last shot," said Mr. Hersh, "is of the balloon in flight as you hear Malcolm describing the feeling of being in a balloon. He said, 'It's the only true way to hear the noise of the sea.'"

"It's an eerie experience," Mr. Hersh continued, "editing a film when the people have gone. You wish you'd recorded more sound or asked another question."

"What makes this documentary important and unique is that the event would have happened anyway. It was totally unstaged; the essence of cinema verite. Malcolm and Rod and Pam were part of the film."

Would Have Gone

Mr. Hersh, who with his partners

got to know the crew of the Free Life well, said that Pamela had known during the last week that she would go on the flight. "Malcolm was an astounding person. He had flown across the Alps; he built the balloon for 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,' and flew the one in 'Charley Bubbles.' I trusted him completely . . . I would have gone."

Filming was done primarily over the weekend of Sept. 18-20, and for four or five days after news was received that the Free Life had gone down about 1,300 miles from Springs in the North Atlantic. No trace of the crew or the balloon or gondola was ever found.

"It was an astounding phenomenon," recalled Mr. Hersh—"this very conservative town helping those crazy people. The way everyone got behind them was incredible."

Among the local residents who

appear in "Free Life" are George Sid Miller Sr., Victor Suchanek, Erwin Beckwith, Clarence Barnes, Andy Malone, Jean Stafford Lieblich, and Willem deKooning.

Mr. Hersh said he would like to hold a premiere of the documentary in East Hampton on Sept. 20, the date the Free Life took off on its voyage.

Jack Graves



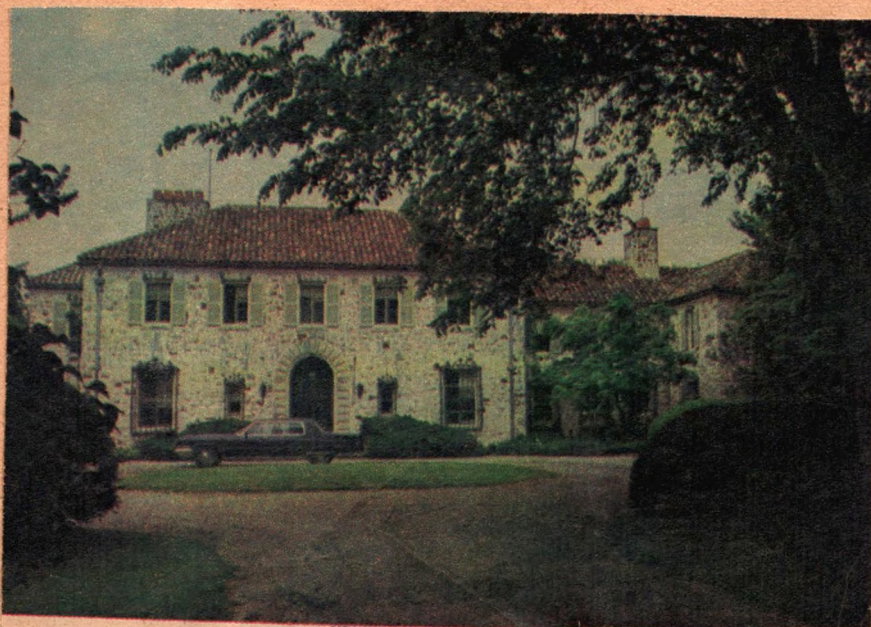


Mrs. Robert D. L. Gardiner

The herb gardens in the East Hampton White House and the Bay Shore home, where George Washington slept and John F. Kennedy was introduced as the "next President of the United States," are his delight.

The Gardiners entertain elegantly most of the time. When Gen. De Gaulle's son was in New York he attended a cocktail soiree for the Duke of Wellington's grandson and granddaughter at their Fifth Avenue apartment. But they also have an informal bash each year on the island to raise funds for Southampton College.

So much for French haute cuisine. Gardiner is entering an Oriental period. Not only does he have a Chinese cook but is planning to have a Chinese restaurant in a shopping center he owns in the town of Islip, and a Polynesian restaurant in the 100-boat marina he is building on Three Mile Harbor Road in East Hampton. □



NEWS PHOTOS BY DANIEL JACINO

Their East Hampton home was the summer White House for Great Aunt Julia and her husband, President Tyler.

Gardiner's Island



The Island was left, in 1953, by the late Miss Sarah Diodati Gardiner, to her nephew, Robert David Lion Gardiner, and his sister, Mrs. James Randall Creel. It is still in her estate, and is administered by the United States Trust Company as trustee.

Gardiner's Island is in the Springs School District, and paid a total of \$40,887 in real estate taxes this year on an assessed valuation of \$275,000.

Bought In 1639

The assessment has apparently been unchanged since a suit against the Town Assessors in the 1930s; in

any event, low assessment of vacant land, and the Island has relatively few buildings (they are assessed at \$50,000 of the total), has been unofficial Town policy.

The Island was bought in May, 1639, from the Indians by Lion Gardiner, who had come to Saybrook Fort, Connecticut, from England four years before. He also obtained a patent from the Earl of Stirling, who had been granted much of this area by the English crown.

This August, and for several summers past, a number of Long Island Boy Scouts have been allowed to camp on the Island, with supply services being handled by armed forces reservists doing yearly training.



Gardiner shot turkeys for Lucullus Circle dinner, magna cum laude for gourmets.

ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER, the multi-millionaire socialite, sixteenth Lord of the Manor and owner of the Gardiner's Island off Long Island, has a pedigree unmatched in this country and a fortune so old it makes the Rockefellers and Fords seem like *nouveau riche*.

The Lion Gardiners came over, not in the Mayflower but in their own boat, complete with French maid, in 1693 with the only English land grant in America from King Charles I. They were the first white family to settle in the East Hampton area.

Their island, remote, crescent-shaped and seven miles long, located at the end of Long Island, midway between Orient and Montauk Point, was home to the young girl who married President Tyler, a widower with a daughter older than she. That was R. D. L. Gardiner's Great Aunt Julia.

Ten years ago Robert Gardiner married Eunice Bailey Oakes, a smashing, red-headed, English beauty, widow of Sir Harry Oakes' son. "Gardiner men marry late," says Mr. Gardiner. It was a front page wedding where the groom had 18 attendants, and the bride wore a gown designed by Anne Cox, Patricia Nixon Cox's mother-in-law. A reception for 900 followed.

The Gardiners maintain four homes in the New York area plus a villa on the Continent and a pad in Palm Beach. Their itinerary runs something like this: June, Bay Shore; July and August, East Hampton; September, Europe; Fifth Avenue in October; late October, November, Gardiner's Island; winter in Palm Beach; back to New York and the Island in March, April and May.

They shift their help around from one house to another and take local help out to the island. Now there's a Chinese cook with a repertoire of English, American, French and Chinese dishes, but both Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner do the shopping for food.



NEWS PHOTO BY KEN KOROTKIN

Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner leisurely stroll to the pool past gods and goddesses from the Villa Vichenca in Italy.



Robert Gardiner loves entertaining on his Island, unspoiled and silent, most of all in the shooting season. There are a thousand deer and a thousand turkeys on it, and Canadian geese and ducks. Twelve retrievers go into the ice to fetch them. Eunice loves these big broad-chested powerful, black retrievers that romp restlessly in the barn-red kennels on the way to the great house.

Dignitaries often come to hunt, including the Spanish, French, Turkish, German and Portuguese ambassadors, and big league ball players Ron Swoboda and Ed Kranepool. At hunting time, there's a display, in the French manner, of antlers and pheasants along the fence beside the main entrance—the same fence you see in suburbia.

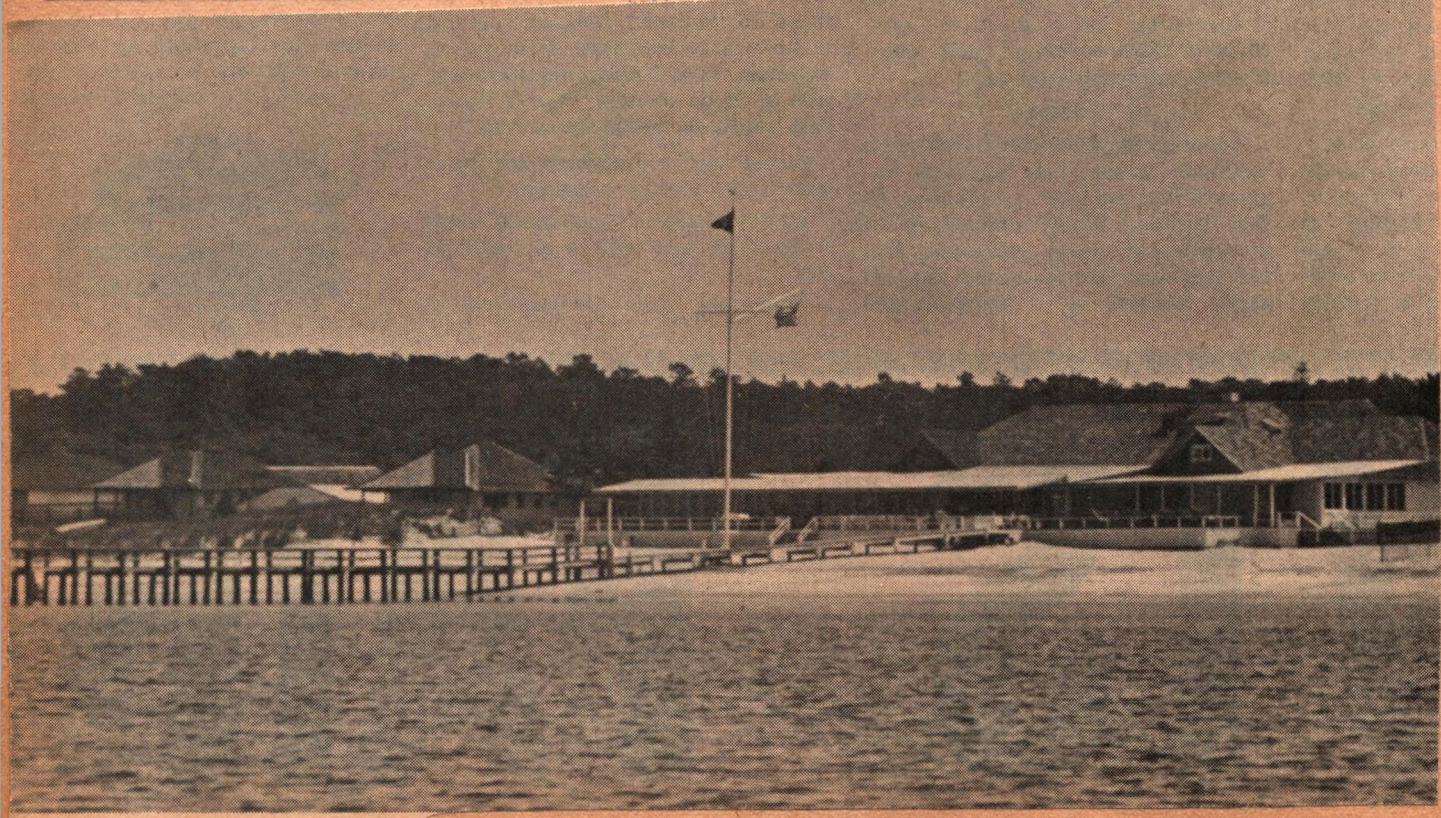
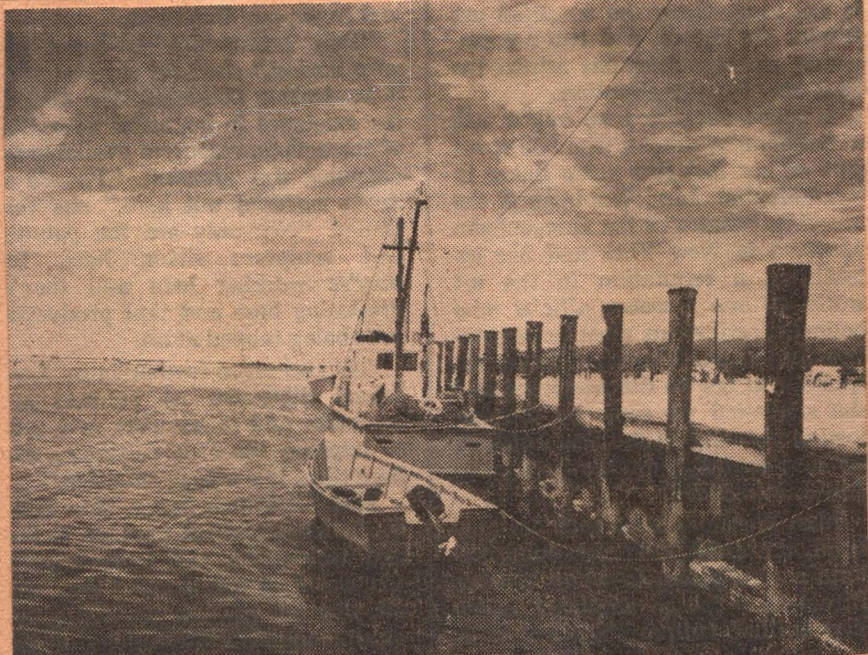
Five hundred years before the artists arrived, a small band of Indians built their teepees around the freshwater springs north of East Hampton. Legend has it that the tribe was later annihilated by jealous enemies and the only thing that remained was their name: "Accabonac." From the name came the word "Bonacker," and from the teepees came a spirited fishing and farming culture on the Springs Peninsula. Today, surrounded by the artists, the wealthy, the fast-paced summer people who are heading home this weekend, some Bonackers remain, their livelihood and their traditions in jeopardy.

At one time it was the spawning ground for generations of fishermen. Today the Springs, an eight-square-mile peninsula hidden north of East Hampton, still has but two general stores, two gas stations, and not one fancy restaurant. It remains unknown to most Long Islanders. But strangely it is known by others all over the world. For living in relative obscurity in the woods of the Springs hundreds of painters and sculptors, many of them acclaimed, are producing more art than any community of comparable size.



Newsday Photo by Harvey Weber

The Springs: Jackson Pollack's enclave for art. In touch with the world, but out of reach of Long Island. That and more—Lichtenstein, Rosenquist, a cabdriver and a carpenter—in the last issue of the Summer Journal of Morton Pennypacker.



Devon from Gardiner's Bay



End of the March

Jack Graves Photo

Women's Lib March Here



Pele scores another one.



BARBARA GOLDSMITH, the writer and editor whose "Little Gloria . . . Happy At Last," about the life of Gloria Vanderbilt, is a bestseller, will receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree at graduation ceremonies at the Pleasantville/Briarcliff branch of Pace University on June 1. Ms. Goldsmith lives in New York at Georgica Road, East Hampton.



CLIFF ROBERTSON, who wrote, produced, directed, and played the lead in "J. W. Coop," will describe the making of the film in the Guild Hall Film Festival in July.



DINA MERRILL, left, will be a hostess for the July 1 opening night of Guild Hall's Film Festival when her husband, Cliff Robertson, presents "The Making of J.W. Coop." Mrs. Eugene Tonkonogy is chairman of Festival receptions.

Trude Golden, chairman of the fourth annual Guild Hall film festival, to be held this year has announced that Cliff Robertson, East Hampton summer resident, will take part in the four-day Fourth weekend event.

Mr. Robertson will discuss his experiences as the writer, director, producer, and star of the recently released "J. W. Coop."

Bay Shorers Flipped Over Faces in Flicks

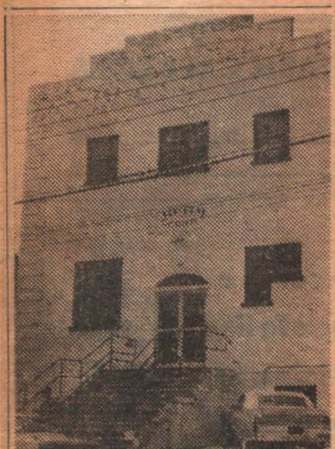
Budget problems currently facing Hollywood's film producers are not unlike those of nearly 60 years ago, when movie-makers selected Bay Shore as a potential film capital.

It was about 1915, when the flick industry was in its infancy, that the Vitagraph Studio, then in Brooklyn, was moved to Bay Shore because the movie moguls felt that the Borough of Churches did not allow enough elbow room for their productions, nor offer sufficient scenery variety.

The studios were set up in a large brick building which still stands on Fourth Ave. and in recent years has been cast in the role of a clothing factory.

Jobs for Extras

During the next several years, as cameras ground out silent films in the South Shore village, many local residents were given



NEWS photo by Jim Mooney
Building on Fourth Ave., Bay Shore, that once housed Vitagraph Movie Studios.

the opportunity to be in the movies, playing as extras and earning from \$5 to \$10 a day—big money in those days.

Besides getting paid, the same folks had the pleasure of seeing themselves on the screen later when the production was shown in the Carlton Opera House, on Bay Shore's West Main St., which showed movies three times weekly.

The innovative industry helped Bay Shore's economy, as it had a weekly payroll exceeding \$3,500.

Big Names Around

Anita Stewart, who had a home on the lakefront in neighboring Brightwaters, starred in "The Goddess" with Earl Williams. Ralph Ince, Anita's brother-in-law, also a Brightwaters resident, was production director in the Bay Shore studio.

Some other well known actors who made films there included John Bunny, Marie Dressler, Bert Lytell, Hughie Mack, Virginia Norden, Norma Talmadge and Florence Turner.

Many of those names will not ring a bell with today's generation, mostly because these early stars are seldom, if ever, seen on the late-late show because they were of the pretalkie era.

Roscoe (Fatty) Arbuckle, whose screen career was abruptly terminated because of involvement in a sex scandal, was among the actors who faced the Bay Shore cameras.

An Embryo of Progress

Many new techniques and devices that figured in the subsequent rapid development of the industry were originated in the Fourth Ave. building.

The Cortland House, which then stood less than a block away, at Main St. and Fourth Ave., became the meeting place of the motion picture elite.

Meats were often sent to the studio when the shooting kept the cast working late. A local furniture dealer supplied some of the furnishings for the sets, renting out some and selling other properties.



4th RUNNER UP - Michelle Irizarry of Brentwood, receives her gift certificate for \$25 from Julius Burtoff, Vice President of the South Shore Mall Merchants Association. Michelle won 4th runner up at the recent Miss Long Island Pageant held at the South Shore Mall. She will compete for the Miss New York State title with hopes of going on to the Miss U.S.A. and Miss Universe contests next year.

OUR OWN GLAMOUR GIRL IN NEW YORK STATE PAGEANT

Lovely nineteen year old Marie Rizzuto, Assistant to the Commissioner's Secretary, Mrs. Peggy O'Brien, is appearing before the T.V. cameras at Colonie Hill March 15 in her debut as a contestant in the 1973 Miss New York Beauty Pageant. The winner will be a contestant in the Miss Universe Pageant later in the year.

The taped show will appear on Channel 5 March 24 at 9 p.m.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE TAPING OF THE
MISS NEW YORK STATE BEAUTY PAGEANT - 1973.

IN AFFILIATION WITH MISS UNIVERSE, INC.,

AS GUESTS OF *Miss Garden City - M. Rizzuto*

COLONIE HILL, HAUPPAGUE, L.I., N.Y.

MARCH 15th., 1973

SHOW TIME 8:30 P.M.

HOST - JOHNNY DESMOND HOSTESS - FRAN JEFFRIES

GLEN BURTON ORG. NORM SPIZZ, CONDUCTOR

PAGEANT WILL BE SHOWN ON SATURDAY, MARCH 24th.,

CHANNEL 5 WNEW-METROMEDIA.

On Path to Miss Universe Crown



UPI photo.
Pretty Susan Carlson, 18, of Hauppauge, is crowned Miss New York State, qualifying her for the Miss Universe pageant. Singer-actress Fran Jeffries adjusts her tiara as singer Johnny Desmond stands by. Susan won over 34 other finalists in the contest.

The Oldest General Store

When Ebenezer Smith opened his general store in St. James in 1857, he really started something. The establishment, one of the rare original general stores in the United States, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Situated at 516 Moriches Rd., St. James, it retains the look and some of the merchandise of long ago—chewing tobacco, cornhusk dolls and "penny" candy. The store has a pot-bellied stove and one of the first phones installed in the area. St. James, once popular among celebrities as a summer vacation spot, still bears their names in a ledger in the general store. It includes John Barrymore, Stanford White, Dolly Stevens, Maud Adams, Irving Berlin and Heavyweight Boxing Champ Gentleman Jim Corbett. Andrew Havrisko, who bought the store in 1960, sold it in April to John Oakley of Stony Brook. "I've had 200 people interested in buying the place," said Havrisko, "but we were interested in people who were interested in Americana. Oakley, his wife and children are Americana buffs." Because of its authenticity and charm, the store has been seen by millions of Americans over and over



Dina Merrill's Son Feared Drowned

By STEWART AIN and PAUL MESKIL

A flotilla of millionaires' yachts joined police and Coast Guard vessels yesterday in an air-sea hunt for socialite sportsman David Post Rumbough, 23, son of Hollywood star Dina Merrill, who apparently drowned Saturday when he lost control of his speedboat in Gardiners Bay, L.I.

Among the searchers were his beautiful blonde mother; his father, millionaire industrialist Stanley Maddox Rumbough Jr.; and Miss Merrill's present husband, actor Cliff Robertson, who piloted his private plane over the area where David disappeared.

David, a jet set bachelor who lives in Denver, had been visiting his parents in the East Hampton resort area where both Miss Merrill and Rumbough maintain summer homes, hers on Highway Behind the Pond, near the ocean, and his on Three-Mile Harbor Road, near the harbor and Gardiners Bay.

Miss Merrill's mother, Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post, is one of the world's wealthiest women.

David and a friend, Jonathan



Cliff Robertson
Joins search, too



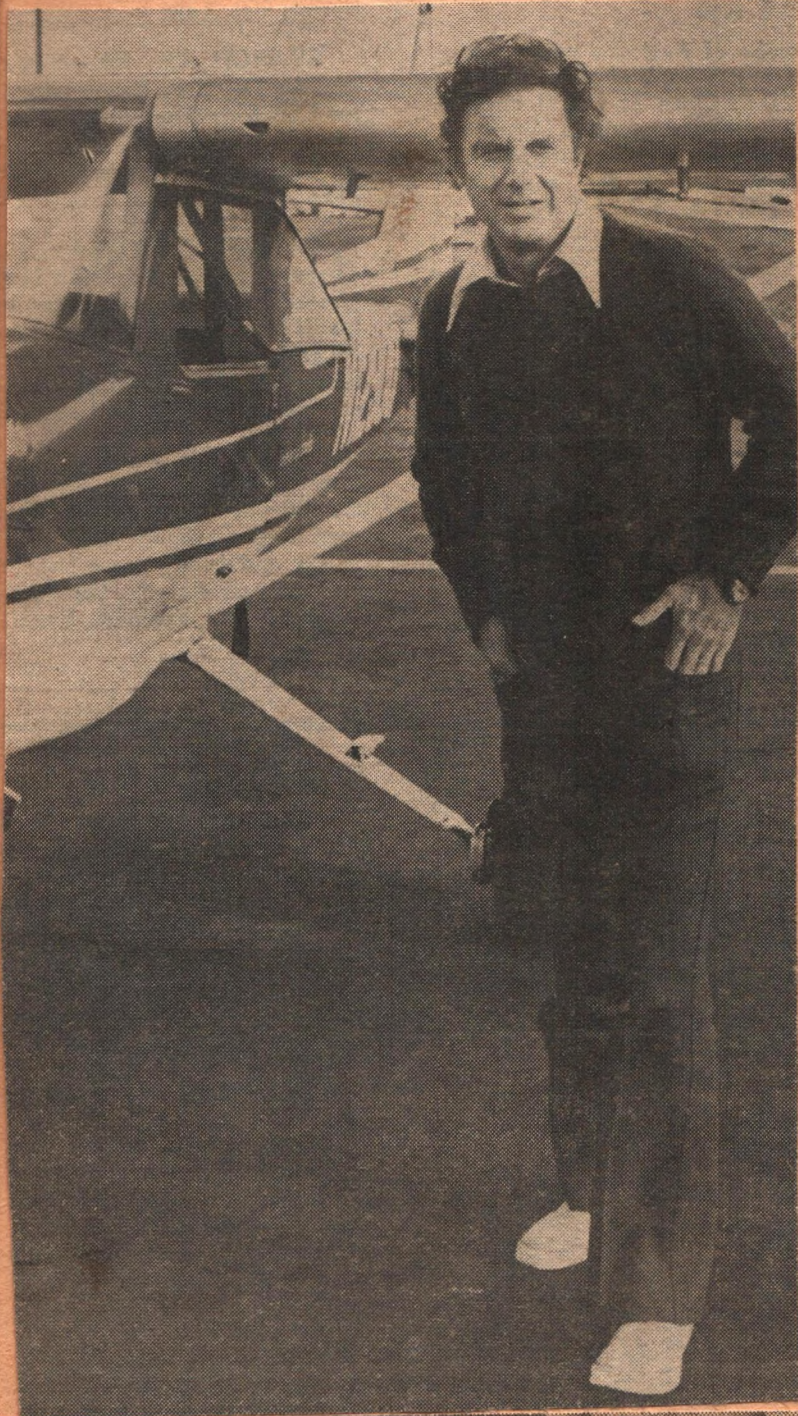
Stanley Rumbough Jr.
Missing youth's father



Dina Merrill—helps in search for her son.

Keith, 22, son of Norman C. Keith, president of the Commonwealth Oil Refining Co., drove to Newport, R.I., Saturday to pick up

David's boat, the Ocean Commotion. The 27-foot craft was described by David's father as an ocean



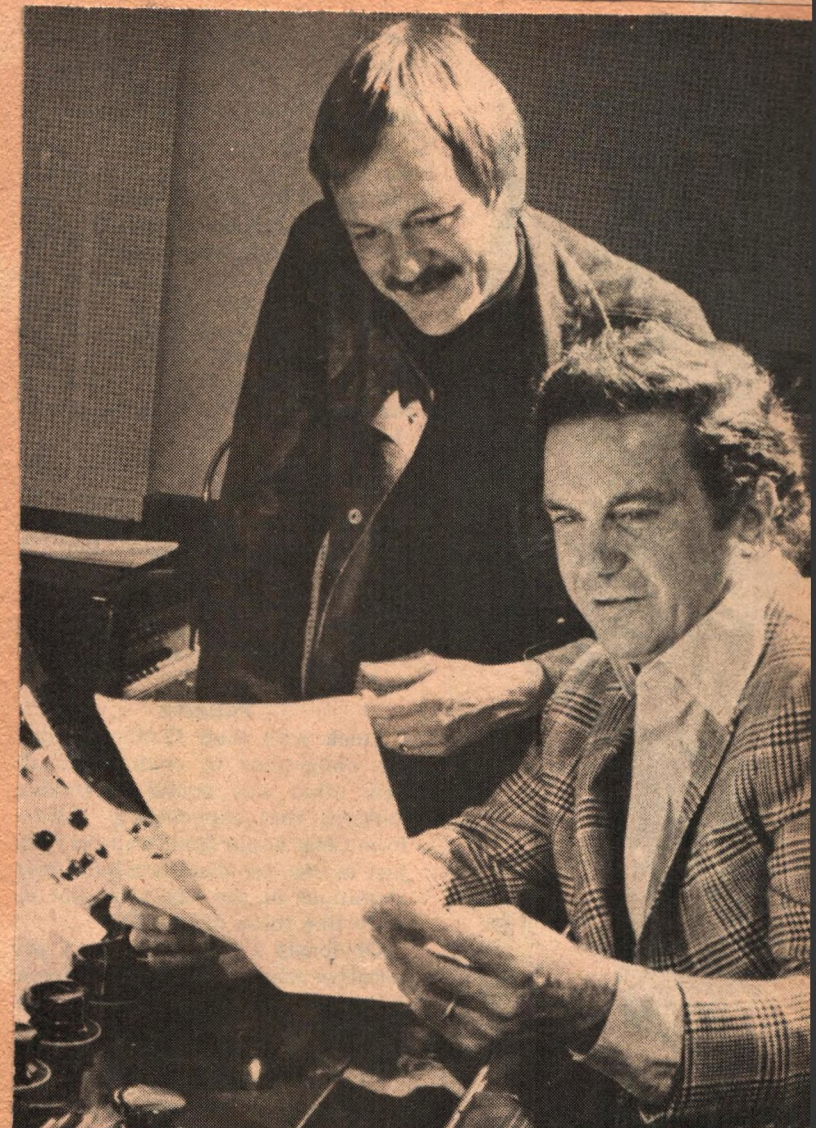
Marjorie Merriweather Post



Marjorie Post speaks at 1967 C.W. Post College convocation



Dina Merrill has weathered tragic loss of both her mother and her son. Husband Cliff Robertson is getting mucho praise for *Man on a Swing*.



CLIFF ROBERTSON, right, of Highway Behind the Pond, East Hampton and Richard Schickel review the script Mr. Robertson used in narrate "The Men Who Made the Movies," which appeared on Public Broadcasting Service television earlier this month. The series, made possible by Eastman Kodak grant, concerns the work of eight veteran Hollywood directors.



Newsday Photo by Bob Luckey

Eli Wallach, left, his wife, Anne Jackson, and Dina Merrill and her husband, Cliff Robertson, at a promotion for a film festival at Guild Hall, East Hampton.



CELEBRITY BARTENDERS Dick Cavett, Al Pacino and Edward Albee (foreground, from left) practice up for their forthcoming duties at the Montauk Village Association's July 29 "Greenery-Scenery" party, to be held at the Montauk Manor. Testing their refreshing efforts in the background are Mary Pospisil, MVA president; Bettie Duryea, party chairman; Frank Borth, MVA artist; Chip Duryea, head bartender and instructor, and Wendy Ryan of the raffles committee.

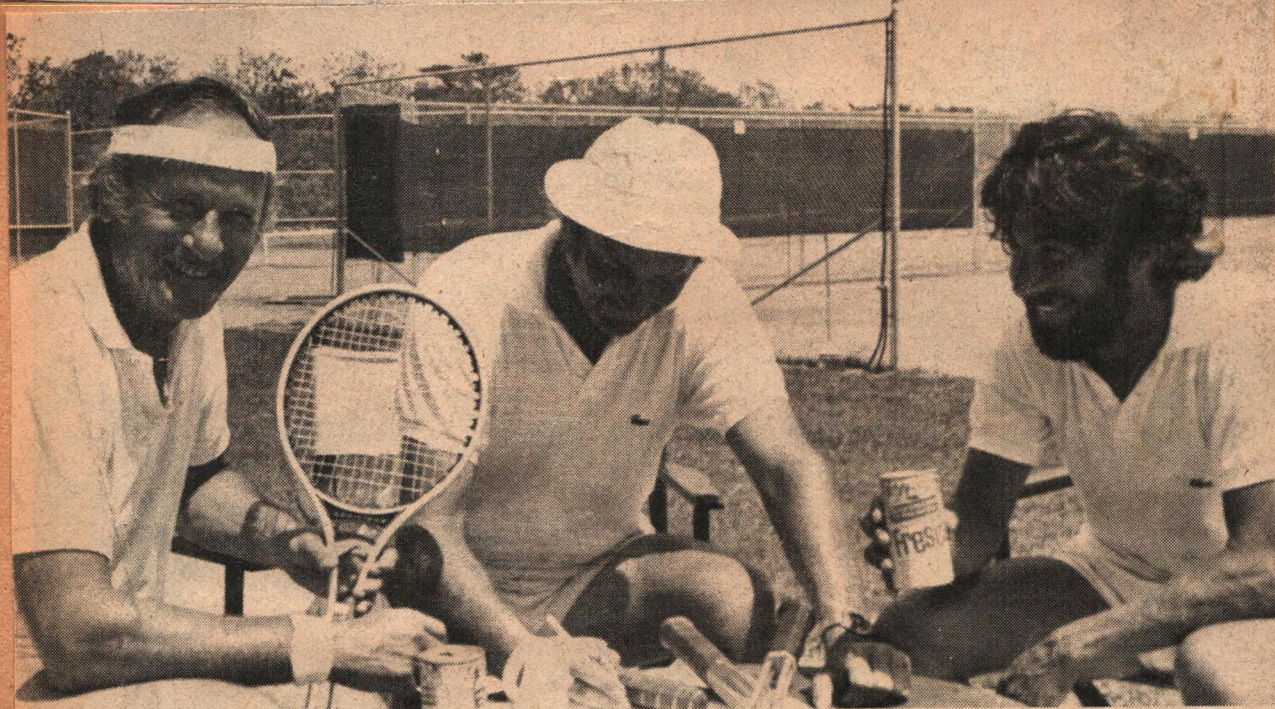


COCKTAILS BY CAVETT — Dick is bartending for the Montauk Village Association, "Greenery Scenery" cocktail party, Saturday, July 29 at the Montauk Manor from 6 to 8 p.m. So is playwright Elia Kazan, star of "The Godfather," Al Pacino, Perry Duryea, Speaker N.Y.S. Assembly, Bob Sylvester, Daily News, Craig Claiborne, culinary expert and Howard Kindig of the Buffalo Bills. Bill and Lisa Manning are contributing their musical talents. All you contribute is \$6 for unlimited drinks, hors d'oeuvres and fun at Montauk's party of the year. For tickets tel. 668-5200.

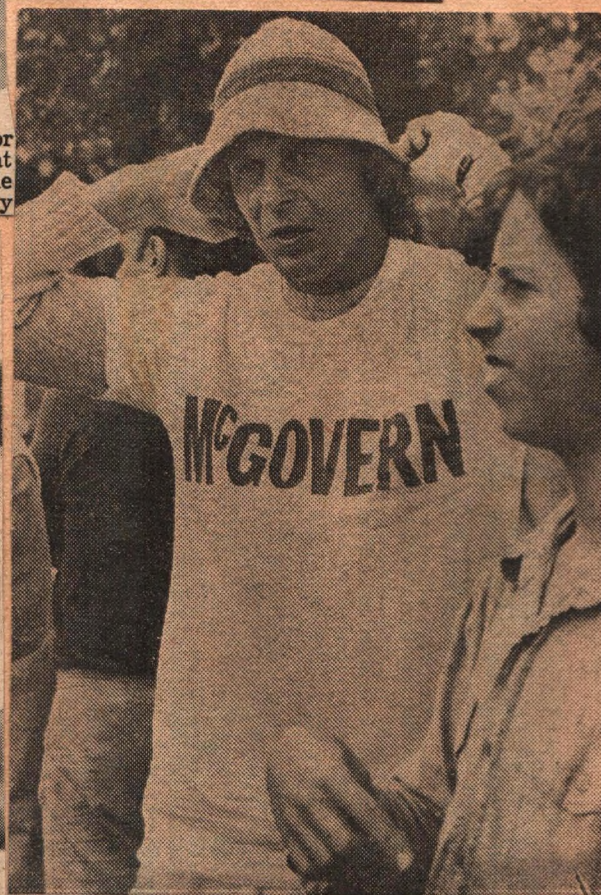
Springs Fair

Actress Gwen Verdon will be a participant at this Saturday's Fisherman's Fair, to be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ashawagh Hall in Springs.

Miss Verdon will preside over the raffle of chances for a basket of liquor.



THE GREEN HOLLOW TENNIS CLUB in East Hampton will be the scene of a tennis tournament Saturday, and putting their heads together recently to plan the event were Eli Wallach, left; Charles Metelski, center, of the Club; and Dustin Hoffman, right, who has grown a beard so he can enjoy some peace and quiet here this summer even if he does get his picture in the paper. Steve Bromley



Writer George Plimpton readies for game.

Artist-Writer Game Saturday

The annual "artists' and writers' softball game will happen Saturday at 4 p.m. on the Newtown Lane or Herrick Playground field, East Hampton. Admission will be free, but the proceeds of a raffle for such prizes as \$100, autographed balls, and autographed books will benefit the Suffolk McGovern campaign.

Writers have customarily won this game in the past. The artists' team this year will include Jimmy Ernst, Ray Prohaska, Robert Gwathmey, Bill Durham, Esteban Vicente, Ted Griffin, Ralph Carpentier, Balcomb Greene, Warren Brandt, Herman Cherry, and Leif Hope, while that of the writers will include George Plimpton, Edward Hannibal, Harry Minetree, Calvin Tompkins, Silvia Tennenbaum, Dwight Macdonald, Bruce Jay Friedman, Jimmy Lipton, Murray Schisgal, Jack Graves, and David Myers, its captain. Dustin Hoffman will play too, probably on the artist's team, since films are a visual art.

Umpires

The game will be umpired by



PREPARING AESTHETIC SOFTBALL: from left, Joseph Heller, author of "Catch 22;" John Johnson, an automotive artist for the Sag Harbor Auto Body and Collision Shop; David Myers, author of "The Last Days of Mr. Punch" and captain of the writers' team; and Harry Minetree, of East Hampton, a biographer.

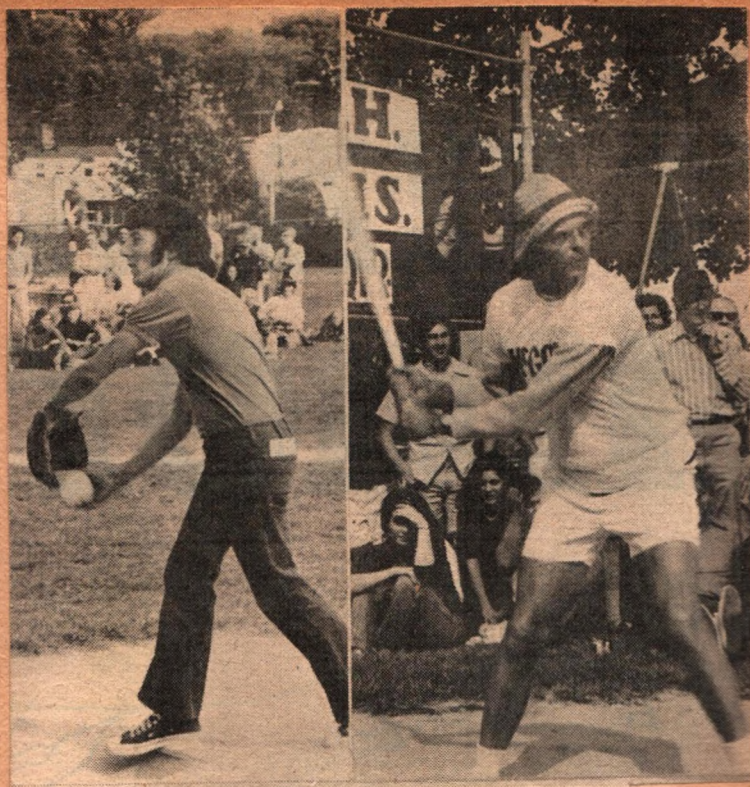
Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and Gwen Verdon; Larry Rivers will videotape it; and a running account of it will issue from loudspeakers installed at the field. It will be followed by a match between the most skillful artists and writers and one of the best local teams.



THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND for Attica prisoners charged with involvement in last September's uprising will be swelled by the proceeds of a cocktail party to be held at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Amagansett home of Mr. and Mrs. George Plimpton, shown here with (from left) Tom Paxton and Eli Wallach, who will serve as bartenders along with Gerald Rivers, Gwen Verdon, Anne Jackson, and Mike Tolan. The Rev. Daniel Berrigan will be guest speaker; Mrs. Victor Rabinowitz of East Hampton is ticket chairman. Davis Gaf



Broadway stage stars Gwen Verdon (l.) and Anne Jackson, umpiring, call 'em as they see 'em. NEWS photos by Ken Korotkin



Pitching was Dustin Hoffman, George Plimpton at the bat



outfielder Adolph Greene and ump Gwen Verdon

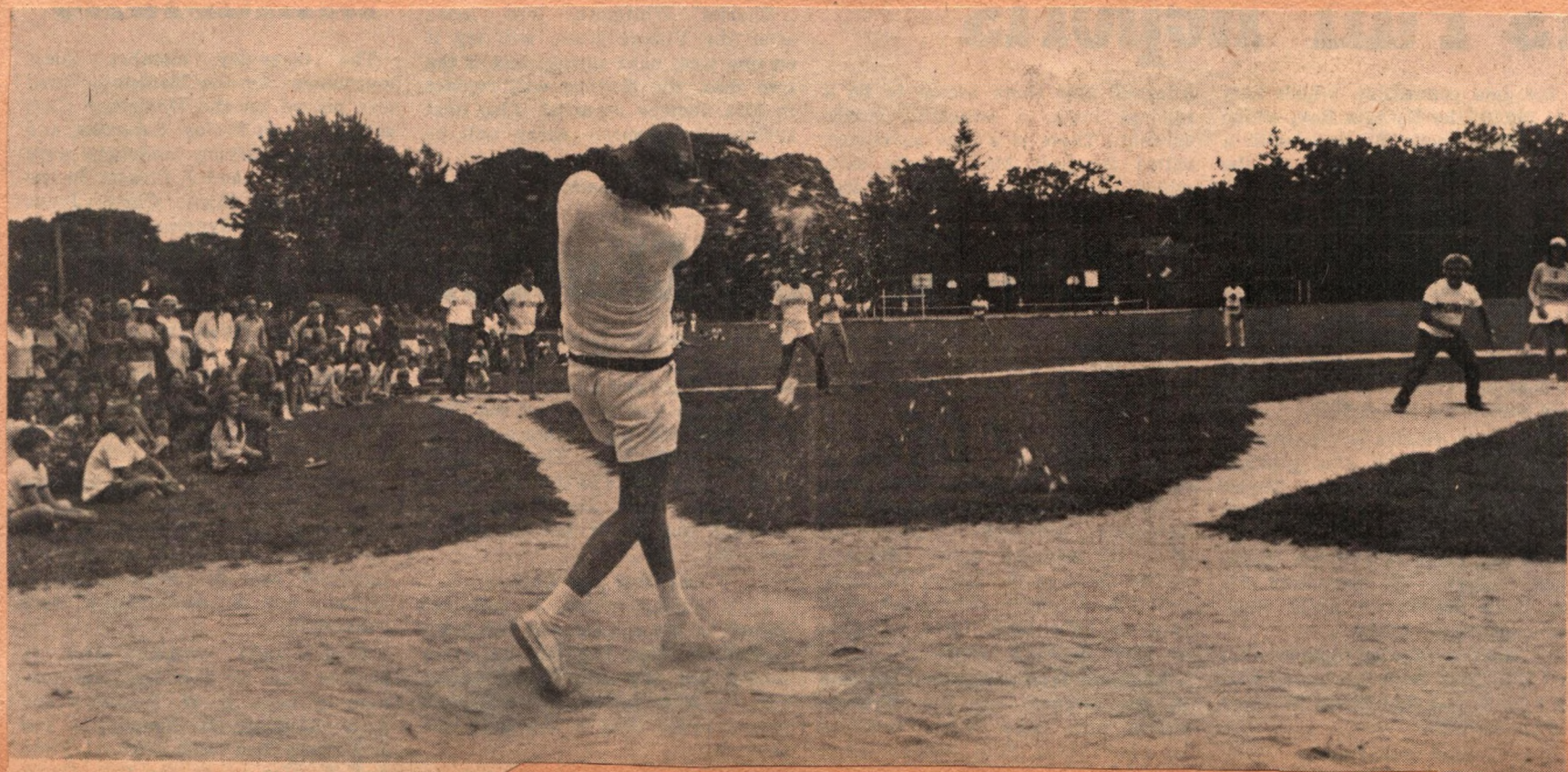
REFEREES
Anne Jackson
Gwen Verdon

WRITERS (partial list)	ARTISTS (partial list)
Willie Morris 1B	Herman Cherry
Peter Matheson, CF	Masuo Ikeda
James Lipton	Ralph Carpentier
Gary Gilson, SS	Francesco Bologna
Murray Schisgal	Crawford Shaw
George Plimpton, 3B	Henry Majeski
David Myers, SCF	Ben Heller
Leon Friedman	Jimmy Ernst
Calvin Tompkins	Jeffrey Segal
Joseph Heller, RF	Dustin Hoffman
Adolph Greene	Paul Davis
Jack Graves	Gary Apkar

WRITERS	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	1	0	-	7
ARTISTS	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	-	5

RESULTS OF THE WRITERS-ARTISTS SERIES TO DATE

1968	Writers	20	Artists	2
1969	Writers	16	Artists	2
1970	Writers	8	Artists	6
1971	Writers	11	Artists	6
1972	Writers	7	Artists	5



GEORGE PLIMPTON belts the grapefruit.



"A DIVERTISSEMENT OF DANCERS," to be held at 7 p.m. July 29 in Guild Hall, will star Gwen Verdon, center, and "a group of famous dancing friends" from Broadway, ballet, modern dance, and jazz. James Lipton, left, the author of two Broadway musicals, will produce, write, and narrate it; and Mrs. Herbert Golden, right, will coordinate it as a benefit for Guild Hall.



Gwen Verdon and Harvey Evans do a number from "Damn Yankees" on "Ed Sullivan's Broadway," a CBS special due Friday at 8:30 p.m.



ROBERT FOSSE, who heads for the Hamptons whenever he can get away from Hollywood and Broadway, brought his daughter, Nicole, to Saturday night's party celebrating the opening of the new Laundry Restaurant on Race Lane. More than a few celebrities were among the hundreds gathered for the bash.



PAUL NEWMAN getting ready to go

Hugh Gage

Paul Newman at The Bridge

According to a girl handling warning flags at one location at Bridgehampton Race Track last Saturday, when Paul Newman raced here in 1972, "he was a little too," here she touched her cheek, "conscious of his face." This year he was not.

Newman, who caught the racing bug while making a film about Grand Prix drivers several years ago, races for the prestigious Bob Sharp Datsun racing team, and drives a Datsun 510. Last Saturday he drove the 510 to third, behind only Sharp and a powerful Porsche, in a hotly contested race for National SCCA championship points.

The cars in Sharp's team are meticulously prepared, and remark-

ably powerful, but a strong car alone will not win a race. The driver must possess skill and bravery—Newman, far from being a dilettante, appears to have as much of both as one of his film characters, Hud, possessed crassness.



Kurt Vonnegut, the popular American novelist who lives on Sagg Main Street in Sagaponack, delivered the commencement address at Southampton College on Sunday. Its full text follows.

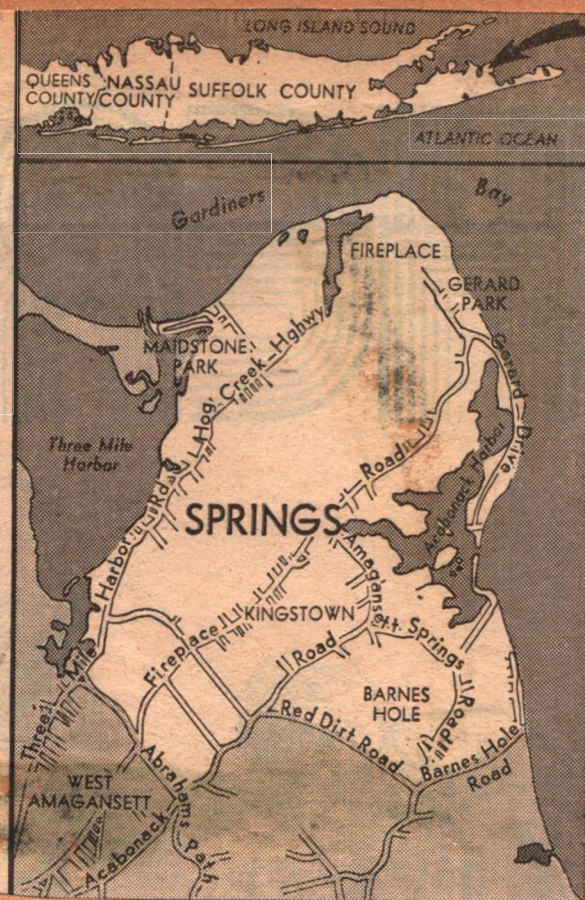


Little Edie At Grey Gardens

Outsiders Are Welcome, But the Greeting Is Wary



Springs—sometimes called The Springs—is located on a peninsula north of East Hampton Village on the South Fork of Long Island. It is bounded on the north and east by Gardiners Bay, on the west by Three-Mile Harbor and on the south by a series of connecting roads from Abrahams Path to Barnes Hole Road. It is an unincorporated hamlet of about 2,500, a mixture of artists and writers, summer vacationers, retired persons and even a few descendants of the original white settlers.



Jackie's Cousin Fears for Ghost In Her Mansion

By STEWART AIN

"The ghost is in the back part of the house and if they seal that part up I'm afraid there will be a fire or a disaster because he doesn't like to be shut in," Edith Bouvier Beale, who lives in the house with her mother, Mrs. Edith Beale, explained yesterday.

The 56-year-old cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was discussing the progress of workmen who, following Health Department orders, are trying to get the 28-room Beale Mansion in shipshape condition by this week.

Trouble is, according to Miss Beale, they have disturbed the ghost of the sea captain who built the East Hampton mansion at the turn of the century.

The renovation began following a hearing by the Suffolk County Health Department June 21. Attorney William F. Vanden Heuvel, a close friend of the Kennedy's

represented the Beales at the hearing. He promised that the mansion would be cleaned "as expeditiously as possible"—within 30 days.

For Own Good

Department inspectors contended the structure was "extremely unsanitary" and threatened to evict the Beales for their own good unless conditions are improved. Another inspection is slated for 10 a.m. tomorrow. The Aug. 2.

Miss Beale said yesterday that department hearing will continue



NEWS photo by Jim Mooney

The Beale Mansion in East Hampton, as it looked before it was reconditioned.

four of the 28 rooms in the house, called Grey Gardens, will be renovated and that the rest of the house will be closed.

Mrs. Beale has lived at the house on West End Road, since 1923.

"Since the workmen have been cleaning up the house and throwing things away we've heard a lot of odd noises because the spirits are being disturbed—if

Princess Oversees

Mrs. Edith Bouvier Beale, 76, the sister of Jackie's father, said Jackie's husband, millionaire Aristotle Onassis, will be footing the bill for the renovation which she estimated will cost about \$4,000. She noted that Princess Lee Radziwill, Jackie's sister, has been "bossing the whole (renovation) project," and that she visits them almost every weekend.

Miss Beale, said Jackie sent them a telegram last week from the Onassis yacht Christina in which she said she is "pleased to hear that everything is proceeding full speed ahead."

"you know what I mean," she said. In addition to the sea captain,

a woman and her daughter also haunt the structure, she added.

But Miss Beale said she didn't know how the health inspectors would view the cleanup operations. "We are really trying, even though it may look terribly ghastly now — mother says it won't look like anything until it gets painted."

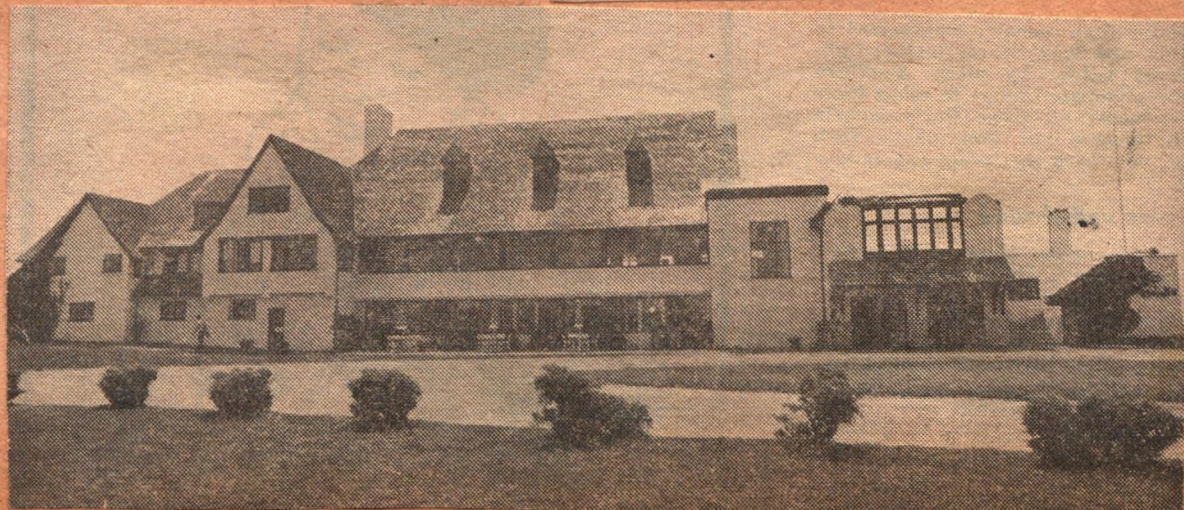
Cite Violations

Health inspectors had cited a lack of toilets, showers and hot water as well as exposed electrical wiring, broken heating

pipes and a defective furnace as health violations.

Miss Beale said yesterday that for the past three weeks men have been installing rubber asphalt shingles on the roof—"they're a charcoal color, they're very nice." She said the work is expected to be completed in one week.

In addition, the rear bathroom has been put into operating condition and an electric water heater installed. And cleaning men have been making a thorough sweep of the mansion, she added.



The Maidstone Club, named after the early settlers of East Hampton, who came from the town of Maidstone in England, after June fire damaged the clubhouse. In the insert is Jacqueline Bouvier at the age of 13, in bonnet and turn-of-the-century dress, riding in a pony cart as the club celebrated its 50th anniversary. The year was 1942.

By Jane Snider

At the tip of an eight-mile-square peninsula jutting into the choppy waters of Gardiners Bay is a rocky bluff called Fireplace. Here the first settlers of Springs built fires to signal to Gardiners Island that a boat was coming over.

Near the other end of the road that winds down through the woods toward East Hampton Village is a sign that reads, "Welcome to The Springs." There are some who wish it were not there.

It is not that visitors would be met by hostility—just an attitude of protectiveness. "A lot of people just don't want anybody to know this place exists. They don't want to attract attention to it," explains Agnes Bristell, a two-year resident of the community.

For generations, the first white settlers of Springs, thought to have come to Fireplace from Gardiners Island or from Europe around the middle of the 17th century, and their descendants lived in almost total isolation and self-sufficiency, making a living by fishing and farming or by chopping wood to send to New York City. Some descendants of those families—the Bennetts, the Kings, the Edwardses, the Lesters, the Parsons and the Millers—still live in Springs.

The old families gradually settled around Acabonack Harbor, named for a tribe of local Indians. The meaning of the word is uncertain. Some local amateur historians say it means springs; others say it is an Indian word for root place. But at any rate the people who settled around the harbor came to be known as "Bonackers." At one time, it was considered a term of derision: clam digger or pine stumper. "Mother was always disturbed if we were termed Bonackers," said Mary Louise Dodge, a longtime Springs resident whose late father, Merton H. Edwards, was one of the last of the old native fishermen to cast his nets off the shores of the peninsula. But over the years the expression has become a term of endearment. "Now we are kind of pleased about it," said Mrs. Dodge, who lives in a house on Fireplace

Road, in the same room where she was born.

By the best local estimates, only 300 or so descendants of the original settlers remain here, out of a total population of about 2,500. Still, the remaining Bonackers have managed to retain their own way of doing things. Many still speak with the accent associated with their ancestors in Kent, in southern England. They often have their own terms for things, such as "graveyard stow," a milk toast given to persons who are very ill. And they are known for a fondness for tall tales and tradition.

It was not until more than a hundred years after the first white settlers arrived that Springs was discovered by the artists. Perhaps led by Jackson Pollack some time after

World War II, they began to flock to the hamlet, drawn by its rustic charm and virtually untouched beauty.

Artist Willem deKooning and New York Times food critic Craig Claiborne are only a few of the many artists and writers in Springs today. Soon after the first artists arrived, they were followed inevitably by the summer people who began to buy up the old homesteads and to carve their developments into the woods. Many of them, New York City dwellers, were looking for a place to retire or to go on vacation, but increasingly they are leaving their wives and children in Springs for the winter or moving out from the city altogether.

"This started out as a retirement community," said George Sid Miller Jr., a native, as he drove through

Clearwater Beach Development on the shores of Three-Mile Harbor. "But then we began picking up busloads of children here." Since 1960, the little Springs school has had three additions. The tax rate has almost doubled since then, and the assessed value of the school district, which includes privately-owned Gardiners Island, has jumped from \$3,054,000 that year to \$9,700,000 today.

"The picture has changed," said Daniel T. Miller, who at 76 still runs the 150-year-old general store on Old Stone Highway. Miller, whose name has become synonymous with the community, is a native and a descendant of the first settlers known. Almost everyone else is a newcomer.

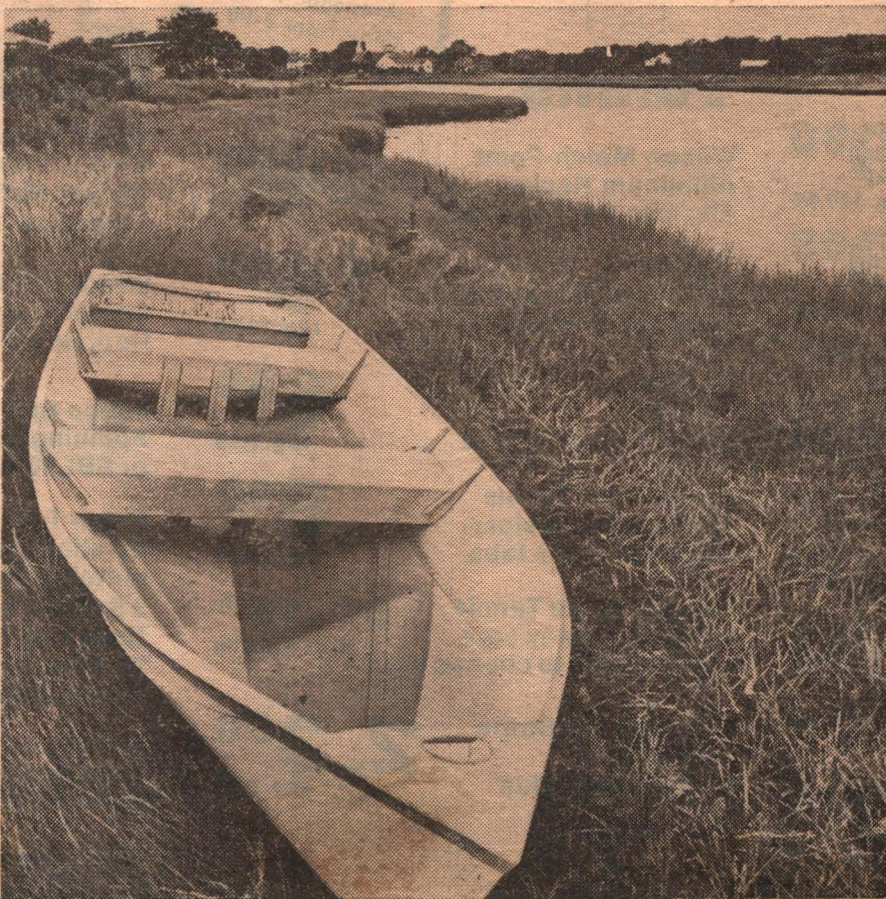
"This was a wonderful place for a poor man to live, in a little cottage with taxes about \$12 or \$15," said Miller, recalling the days of his youth. "He didn't go hungry or cold. The harbor always had clams, scallops, fish and eel. He might have a little garden with a cow, pigs."

"The economy was farming and fishing. . . . Now it is entirely based on growth," Miller said. But he quickly pointed out that he was not against growth. "As hunting and fishing declined," he said, the place "got kind of down at the heels." That was happening, he said, about the time he bought the store in 1945, about the time the new people began coming, bringing outside money and new blood, rejuvenating the little community. With the summer people came the party boats, and that meant docks, and marinas and more money for the community.

"There is not a real fisherman or a farmer left," said Miller, running his gnarled hand over the counter of his store. "I guess all I do is preach sermons these days. But I want to tell you something: You don't get rich by taking from each other's wallets. We needed the new people."

And so they came, building houses in new developments such as Lion's Head Beach or Barnes' Landing. But in spite of the encroachment, Springs retains much of its rustic character. For all its artists and summer people,

—Continued on Page 24



Newsday Photo by Bob Luckey

On the shore of Acabonack Harbor

it still can claim only two general stores, one liquor store, a pizza parlor, a hardware store, a garden center and an electrical appliance store. Driving along Acabonack Highway, the oldest road in the community, one can drive about two miles and see nothing but woods on both sides.

Working with the old and new elements is what interests George Sid Miller Jr., who lives on Fireplace Road, just north of his 80-year-old father, who still keeps a small farm. Miller works for the Suffolk County Health Department, but spends much of his time poring over site maps of Springs in his job as a member of the East Hampton Planning Board.

It may take some of the Bonacker ingenuity and independence to insure that the charm of Springs is not gobbled up and transformed into straight streets lined with houses, but Sid Miller says that he is determined to do it. He foresees bridle and hiking paths throughout the community, some of them following the old wagon trails where the settlers entered the forests to chop wood. A ten-acre parcel overlooking Acabonack Harbor already has been donated to the town by the former owners as a scenic easement, offering a view of the bay.

On a ride through the old streets of Springs, Miller can help a visitor relive some local history. "Over there is where my ancestors dug a small pond for watering cattle and horses," he says. "That land has been sold to a developer, but we have to save that pond. That's where the children learned to skate." He points out the place where the old fires were built to signal the ships, and discusses plans to save the land around it. "We start with a historical site and pick up whatever we can along the way. There is so little left to work with," he says. How much land does he think he can save? "Oh, the quantity is not so important," he says. "It's what and where you save."

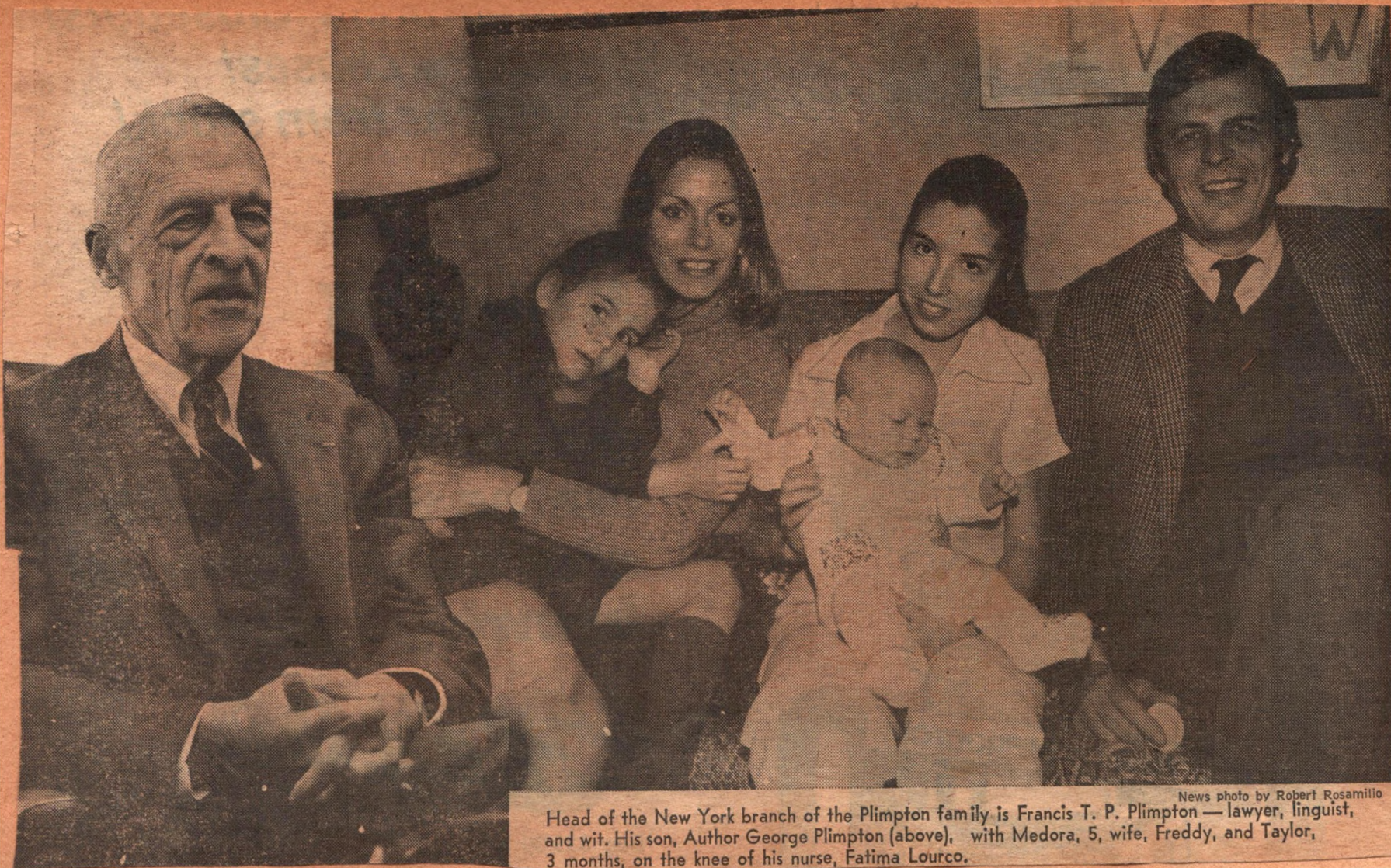


The Village With the Most
East Hampton is Long Island's crowning jewel. Founded in 1648, it sparkles each summer as a gracious leisure town. Its extraordinarily wide Main Street has few, if any, equals. But the grand dimensions do not bear testimony to forward-looking forefathers. Rather, they are evidence that, in the early days, Main Street had to accommodate herds of cattle, driven through each summer to Montauk Point, where they grazed until fall. East Hampton's more modern planners and protec-

tors capitalized on the good luck. Under the stern eye of the Ladies Village Improvement Society, formed in the 1890s, East Hampton remains picture-perfect. Entering the village from the west, along Montauk Highway, one first passes the idyllic town pond, reflecting the greenery of great shade trees. Alongside are the fragile headstones of the Old South Burying Grounds. At the far end of Main Street is a large windmill, which still works and is open during the summer. Also on Main Street is the saltbox house where John Howard Payne, composer of "Home Sweet Home," lived,

the 1770 House—an inn that has been in continual use for more than two centuries—and lovely Guild Hall, the art museum and theater complex built in 1931.

A great deal of East Hampton's summertime charm centers on Guild Hall and its John Drew Theater. This summer is special because it marks Guild Hall's 50th anniversary, the highlight of which is an anniversary ball Aug. 29. It will be in the East Hampton Air Hangar, the only place big enough to accommodate the expected throng. The playhouse's season begins June 26 with three one-act plays by writers who live in the Hamptons.



News photo by Robert Rosamillo
Head of the New York branch of the Plimpton family is Francis T. P. Plimpton — lawyer, linguist, and wit. His son, Author George Plimpton (above), with Medora, 5, wife, Freddie, and Taylor, 3 months, on the knee of his nurse, Fatima Lourco.

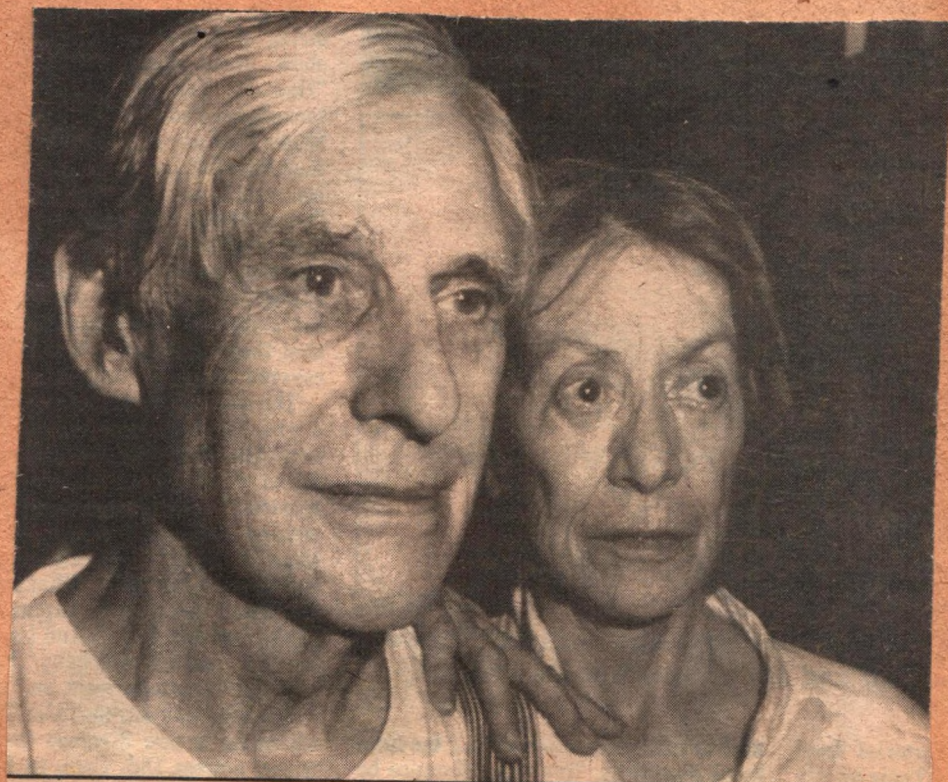
Craig Claiborne



THE FAMILY TWOMEY and the Family Plimpton got together last week to discuss plans for the "Plimpton Olympics," a bring-the-kids afternoon of sporting events to be held Aug. 30 in Wainscott. From left, Thomas Twomey, Democratic candidate for Congress from the First District, whose campaign coffers will be enlarged by the proceeds of the event; his wife, Judith Hope; Erling Hope, George Plimpton, whose Town Line Road house will be the benefit setting; Medora Plimpton, and Freddy Plimpton, holding their son, Taylor.
Cal Norris



SIDNEY LUMET, whose East Hampton house is on Ocean Road, surveys the site of an explosion from a filming platform.



Willem de Kooning and his wife, the painter Elaine de Kooning
New



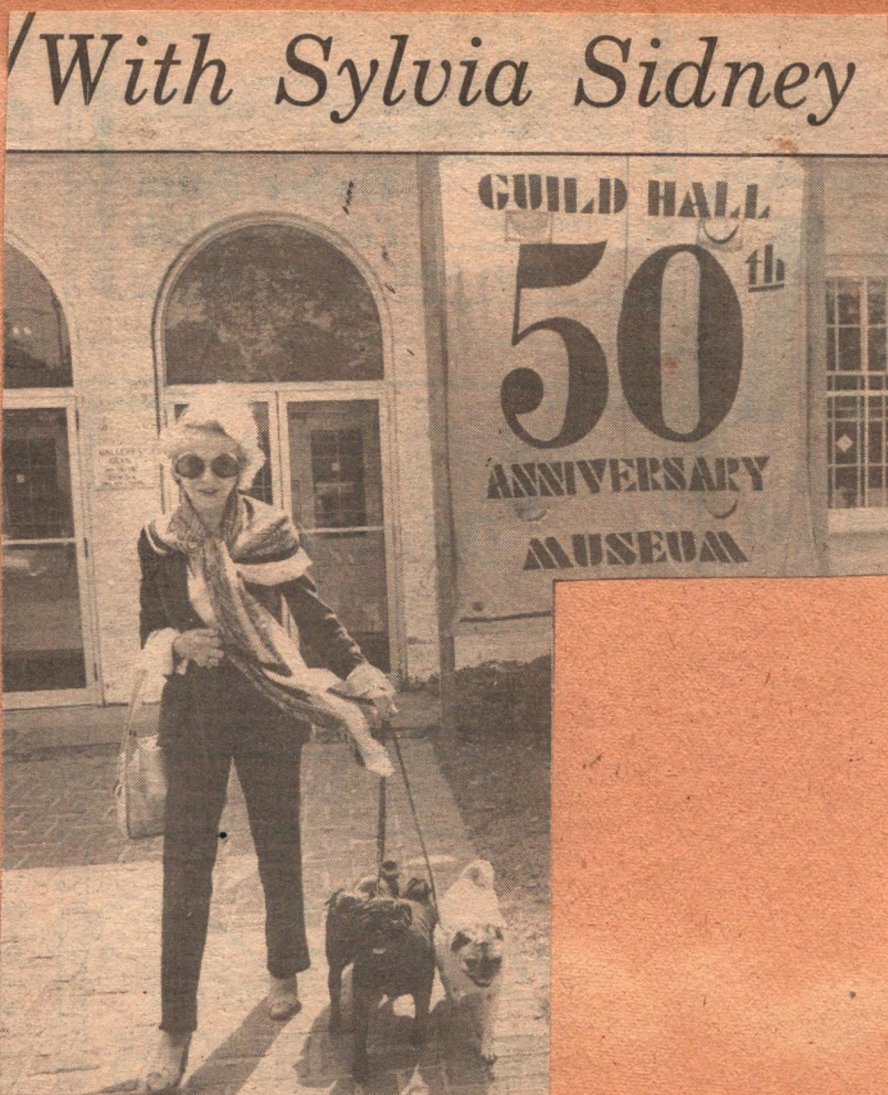
Jack Graves

Beard-Tiegs

As scores of onlookers crowded the grounds of the Montauk Community Church hoping to catch a glimpse or snap a photograph of the wedding couple, Cheryl Tiegs, the model, was married to Peter Beard, the photographer, Sunday evening by the Rev. Thomas J. Holmes.

The maids of honor for the bride were Christine Rosenstein and Barbara Shapiro. Serving as best men for Mr. Beard were his brothers, Anson Jr. and Sam.

After the ceremony the wedding party retreated to Mr. Beard's house on the bluffs in Montauk, where a giant ice sculpture of an elephant in their honor held forth. Hors d'oeuvres were served as a string quartet played, after which the guests moved into a large tent for dinner. The Peter Duchin Orchestra provided music for dancing.



THE MANOR in better days.

Amagansett to celebrate Tricentennial ¹⁶⁸⁰⁻¹⁹⁸⁰

By FRANK MOONEY

THE PLACID OCEANFRONT hamlet of Amagansett, where a group of Nazi saboteurs came ashore during World War II, will observe the 300th anniversary of its founding next Sunday. The event has been in the planning stage for months by a Tricentennial Committee, headed by John Rowe of Amagansett and Cincinnati.

More than 40 organizations from throughout East Hampton Township will participate in the celebration, which will include a parade down Main St. starting at 1 p.m. and culminating in a ceremony at the village flagpole, where a time capsule will be buried.

From street fair to cocktails

Following the parade, a baking contest will be held at the firehouse with food expert Craig Claiborne as judge.

The second phase, "Main Street Events," will follow. This will include a street fair featuring a professional roller-skating exhibition, a gospel sing, a clothesline art show, mime, musical performers, a make-up booth for children and a caricaturist.

At Miss Amelia's Cottage, now maintained as a museum by the Amagansett Historical Association, there will be demonstrations of old-time crafts, such as quilting, spinning, weaving and fancy wood-carving.

The saboteur story

The third phase will center around the historical association's barn, which is soon to become the Roy K. Lester Carriage Museum. Here, an early-evening cocktail party will be held at which the East Hampton Baymen's Association members will offer clams on the half shell and other delicacies.

According to East Hampton Town Historian Carleton Kelsey, Amagansett never had a "founding" in a formal sense. Rather, Kelsey explained, the younger sons of the original families who had settled East Hampton in 1648 broke away to make new homes for themselves in what was then a wilderness.

The name Amagansett was used as early as 1650 by the Montauk Indians and means "Place of Good Water," Kelsey said.

It was in the fog, in the pre-dawn hours of June 13, 1942, that Coast Guardsman John Cullen, 21, on surf patrol, observed four men on the Amagansett Beach. They had just buried some explosives in the sand after coming ashore in a small rubber boat from a German submarine.

Cullen reported the incident to his superiors, who notified the FBI. Two weeks later the FBI arrested the four men, along with four others who had landed in the same manner June 17 on the Florida Coast.



Women's Day

National Women's Day will be celebrated in East Hampton on Saturday with a march, speeches, and entertainment organized by the East Hampton group of "Women Talk to Women." The event, commemorating the 60th anniversary of women's right to vote, will begin with a march down Main Street from Old Hook Mill to the Village Green by Town Pond at 11 a.m. Marchers will hold banners on feminist themes designed by local women artists.

A rally on the Green will follow, with Florynce Kennedy, an active feminist, and Anne Jackson, the actress, as guest speakers, Judith Hope, Long Island liaison for Governor Carey, as moderator, and Mary Fallon, East Hampton Town Supervisor, offering the welcoming remarks.

Entertainment will be provided by Frances Alenikoff, a dancer, and Linda Robbins, a mime. Both men and women have been invited to join the celebration. 8/23/80



Newsday Photo by Ike Elchorn

Parson's Blacksmith Shop in Springs, unused since 1926, may be saved

Preserving a Smithy

By Dallas Gatewood

Springs—Back in about 1904, George Sid Miller was waiting at Parson's Blacksmith Shop with a couple of horses he wanted shod when Doc Lewis came chugging up in his Maxwell.

"Charlie Parsons said horses came first," Miller, now 85, recalled the other day. But Dr. Maury B. Lewis of Sag Harbor was an important man and in a hurry to get his Maxwell fixed. "He told me he'd give me a ride in the car if I'd let him go first. That was my first ride in an automobile."

Charlie Parsons was well-known for his whiz-bang ability to fix almost anything at his blacksmith shop, the last operating shop of its kind in East Hampton. Since his death in 1926, the shop has been unused. The building is a two-story affair with a shingle lean-to on Fireplace Road just south of Fort Pond Boulevard. The East Hampton Town Board has authorized an appraisal to determine if it is feasible to acquire the structure and move it to a nearby town-owned complex which is to be used as a community activities area.

A private company is under contract to buy the property if the town doesn't move first. But in either case the intent is preservation. Jasha Green, a sculptor, said he would probably rent the shop as a studio if

the company, which he would not identify, purchases it. "It would be restored exactly the way it was," Green said.

The main significance of the shop is its history in connection with its owner, Charlie Parsons, said Carlton Kelsey, the town historian. The building was constructed in 1889 by Parsons, who had learned blacksmithing from his father, who was also a farmer and descendent of the first family to settle Springs as well as a descendent of one of the original East Hampton families.

Miller said that Parsons was stubbornly attached to horses but had a reputation as an able repairman of almost anything. He also made farm wagons, anchors for fishermen and did a little gunsmithing.

"He tried to keep cars away from him, but when I.Y. Halsey opened the first big automobile garage about 1915, he'd send cars to Charlie when he couldn't fix them," Miller said.

"In those days it was a big thing when someone could drive a car from Springs down to East Hampton without a breakdown," Miller said. "Charlie could fix them so they wouldn't break down."

There was a tradeoff, though. Parsons was a perfectionist and he didn't really care how long a customer had to wait. "Nobody hurried him a damn bit," Miller said.



IN THE FOREFRONT was Betty Friedan, who was called the "mother" of the contemporary feminist movement when she spoke at the program following the march, and some young activists.



THE WOMAN WHO holds East Hampton's top political post, Supervisor Judith Hope, presents a proclamation to the woman who aspires to hold the nation's second highest, Geraldine Ferraro, at Saturday's Women's Day celebration in Amagansett.